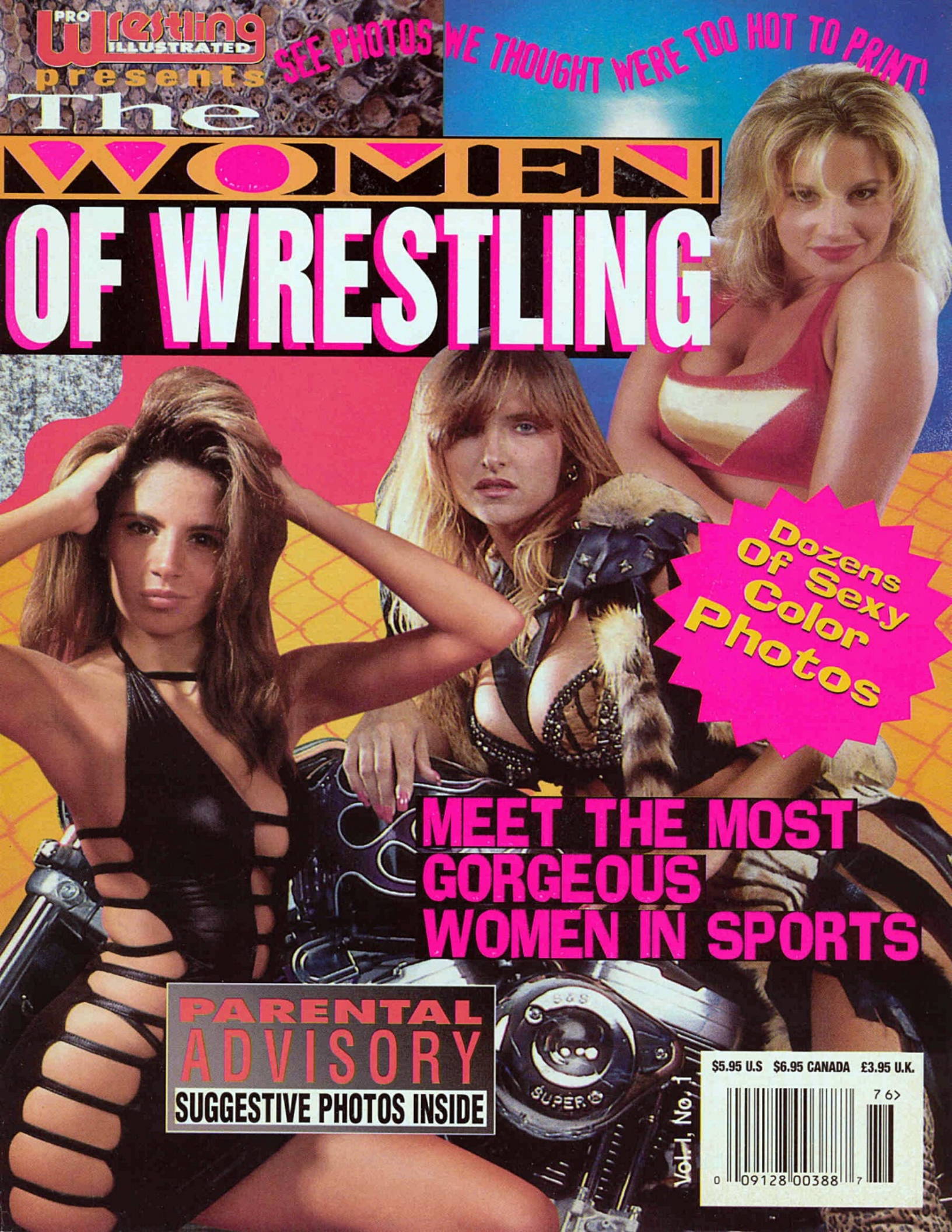
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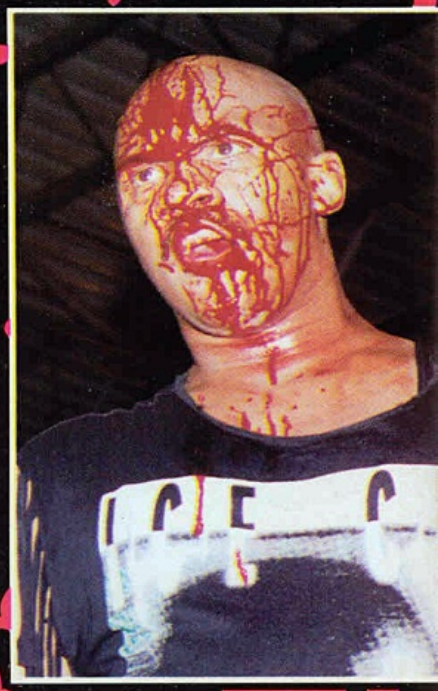

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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED Presents

WOMEN OF WRESTLING

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This special issue will anger a lot of people. But that's a small price to pay. You wanted it published, and that's all that matters!

6 THE TOP 50 WOMEN WRESTLERS OF ALL-TIME
This was an extremely difficult undertaking, as many of the women wrestled in separate eras—and on separate continents. Veteran wrestling writer James C. Melby has seen most of these women first-hand (sometimes in the role of referee), and we were more than happy to leave the choices to him!

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You see them in and around the ring at practically every wrestling card, but how much do you know about the women of wrestling? In this very special section, we allow them to tell you a bit about their personal lives and views and then offer an objective observer to impart his views

94 WHERE HAVE YOU GONE ...
Whatever happened to the women who blazed the trail for the sport's current crop? There's a lesson to be learned. Once these women are gone, you may never see them again. Appreciate them while they're here!

Welcome To The WOMEN OF WRESTLING

Fabulous Moolah had a nearly continuous run of 28 years as World champion. She was a very obvious choice for the greatest woman wrestler of all-time.

A LOT OF people are going to be angered by this magazine. Parents of young children are going to be angry that despite the warning on the cover, their kids still purchased a magazine that contains some rather racy photographs ... Serious female wrestlers are going to be angry that they had to share magazine space with the bimbo element of the sport ... Female wrestlers are going to be angry that they were not rated high enough in the all-time Top 50, or didn't make the list at all ... Valets who were not in the magazine's 32-page color section are going to look at themselves in the mirror and wonder why we don't see the beauty they see.

They'll call. They'll write. They'll corner us in locker rooms. And you know what? It's okay. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* didn't publish THE WOMEN OF WRESTLING for them; we published it for you. This is the magazine special you've been telling us you wanted most. And, admittedly, we had been reluctant to comply with those wishes. We were scared of being politically

Wendi Richter very nearly revolutionized women's wrestling during the mid-'80s with her role in the "Rock 'n' Wrestling Connection."

Neither Moolah nor Richter can be happy about the involvement of women like Francine in the sport. But, like it or not, she is a major part of what wrestling is in the '90s.

incorrect, insensitive, sexist. But what our final decision to go ahead with the project really boiled down to was this: Women are a huge part of professional wrestling, and have been for better than a half-century. Whether it's been in actual combat, as managers, or as ringside distractions, there is no denying that females have made, and will continue to make, their mark on the sport.

We can't ignore the great female athletes that have graced pro rings through the years simply because women's wrestling is suffering through a slump in North America. And we won't ignore today's gorgeous managers/valets/distractions/decorations that turn male heads simply because some people think they demean women in general and women wrestlers in particular.

Our predominantly male editorial board had very little problem selecting who would comprise the "beautiful" portion of the magazine. But for expert insight into the history of women's wrestling, we enlisted the aid of a true expert on the subject, James C. Melby, formerly the editor of the now-defunct magazine *Wrestling Monthly*.

Enjoy and, we shudder to say, let us know what you think.

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THE 50 GREATEST WOMEN WRESTLERS OF ALL-TIME

Section compiled by James C. Melby

1 FABULOUS MOOLAH

Long ago, a young girl named Lillian Ellison approached Billy Wolfe, the top promoter of women's wrestling, and told him she wanted to work for him. To this day, she remembers his exact response: "You're too small to wrestle. Go sit on some lawyer's knee and be a secretary."

She never need any more inspiration for than that.

Moolah won the World title on September 18, 1956, in a tournament final against Judy Grable, and reigned for the next 28 years (losing it for a couple of days along the way after being upset by Betty Boucher). Even after her 1984 loss to Wendi Richter ushered in the so-called "rock 'n' wrestling connection" and seemingly signalled an end to the style of wrestling Moolah made famous, she was able to come back under a mask as the Spider Lady and beat Richter for the title 16 months later. Richter might have been able to unmask her that night, but in essence all she could do was tip her cowboy hat to the greatest woman wrestler that ever stepped into the ring.

Moolah, who began her career as "Slave Girl" Moolah seconding for The Elephant Boy (Tony Olivas), still wrestles on occasion, but prefers to spend her time training wrestlers at her Columbia, South Carolina, facility. The 1991 recipient of the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Editors' Award still follows the sport very closely and serves as an "X-Ray" panelist in *The Wrestler.* Though a rulebreaker throughout her career, she has a very kind heart and does extensive charity work throughout South Carolina.

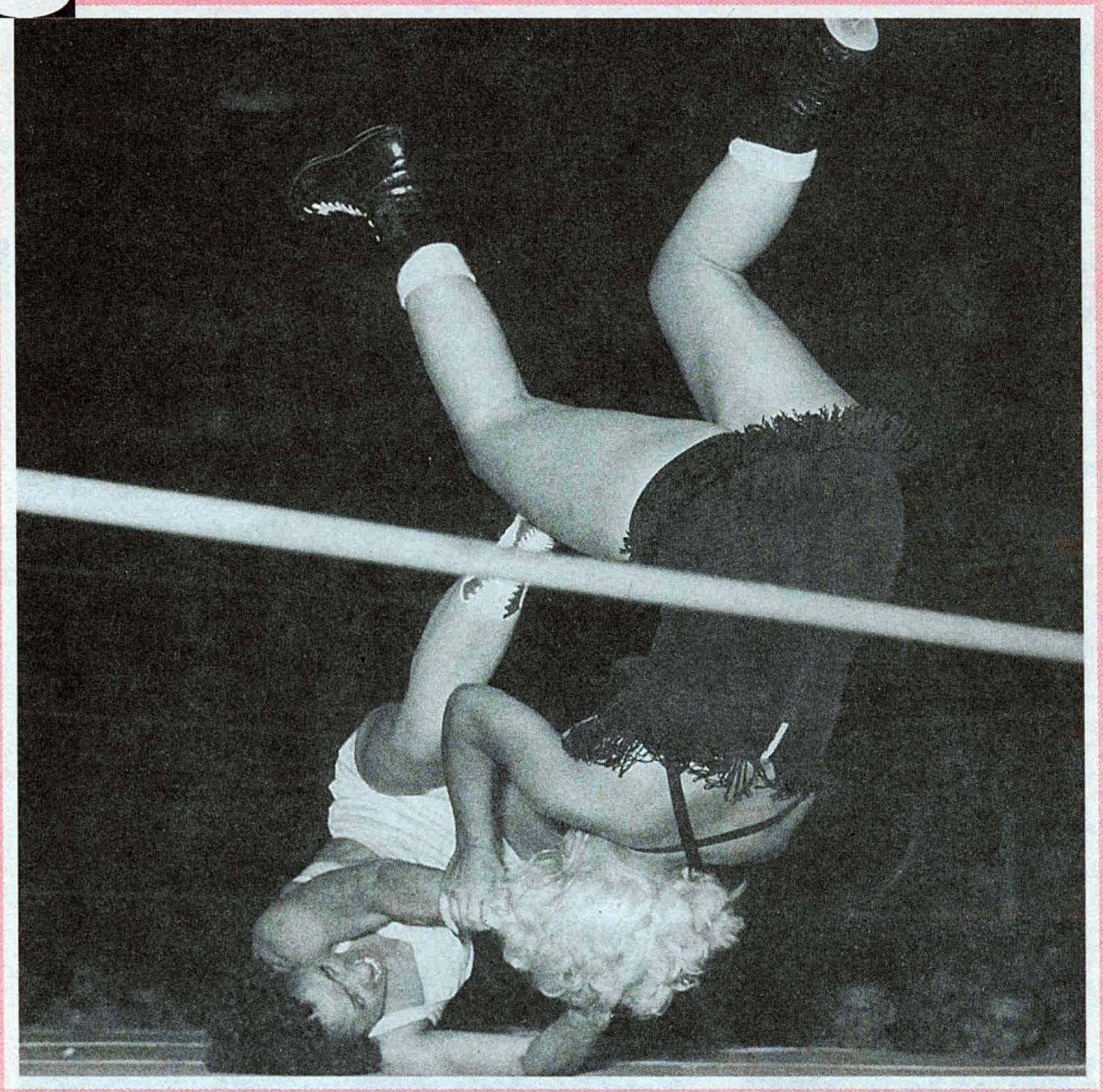
2 JUNE BYERS

June Byers earned worldwide acclaim by upending legendary World champion Mildred Burke in Atlanta, Georgia, on August 20, 1954. After that fabled contest went to the one-hour time limit, Byers was declared undisputed champion, having scored the only fall. The match was actually regarded as a title-unification bout, as Byers had won partial title recognition by winning an elimination tournament in Baltimore the year before.

Byers began training to become a professional wrestler at the tender age of seven with her uncle, lightweight wrestler Ottoway Roberts. A world-traveler, she often defended the title not only in the U.S. and Canada, but also as far away as Australia. For a number of years Byers was married to wrestler/promoter Sammy Menacker. A darling of sportswriters, Byers became famous not only for her wrestling talents, but also for her large collection of diamonds and furs.

She retired from active ring competition on January 1, 1964, her son's birthday.

3 MILDRED BURKE



A pioneer of the sport, Mildred Burke's title bouts in the '40s and '50s shared equal billing with male champions of the era such as Lou Thesz and Bronko Nagurski in double main events.

Burke entered the sport by pestering promoter/booker Billy Wolfe into matching her against a man. Despite the fact that Wolfe offered her opponent a cash bonus to toss her from the ring, Burke stopped her rival dead in his tracks. Later, the two married and Wolfe became her personal manager.

Burke won title recognition from the great Clara Mortensen, and at one point she went 15 straight years without losing. This was a totally amazing feat when one considers that she was also meeting and beating men of her own weight class during that time period!

After retiring from the ring, Burke ran a wrestling school in California. Among her proteges was Marie Vagnone, a very successful wrestler in her own right. Burke deserves her lofty ranking if for no other reason than her numerous wins over other pioneer lady wrestlers such as Betty Nichols, Edna Bancroft, and Wilma Gardner.

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4 MAE YOUNG

Mae Young was generally regarded as the toughest lady wrestler of all-time. She never was able to wrestle the World title away from either Mildred Burke or June Byers, but she gave both champions many anxious moments. Incredibly, the septuagenarian still teams with Fabulous Moolah at special events!

Young was part of a tour in 1953 that saw U.S. lady wrestlers compete in Japan for the very first time. Her feud with Mae Weston is considered the most intense in the history of women's wrestling.

Young's trademark ring strut was stolen from junior heavyweight champion Danny McShane, and later copied by Buddy Rogers and many others. Over the years, Young has trained many top lady wrestlers, a task she enjoys to this day. In recent years, she has been seconded by Lord Randolph Whitmore III, which brings back the fond memories of Gorgeous George's many valets.

Young is considered the greatest villainess in the history of lady wrestling.

5 VIVIAN VACHON

Vivian Vachon had to learn to wrestle or she would have had a tough go of it as a child. Her brothers, Maurice ("Mad Dog") and Paul ("Butcher") grew up to be AWA World tag team champions.

Vachon truly wrestled like a man, using power moves such as standing suplexes. Although a big woman at 155 pounds, Vachon was known for her great speed and stamina. Among her many accomplisments was winning the Grand Prix championship following a victory over Jean Antone in Quebec.

One of the most famous women wrestlers ever, she was the feature subject of the motion picture *Wrestling Queen.* In addition to her wrestling career, Vachon had a number of hit records sung in French that were popular in the Montreal area. She inspired females both in the U.S. and Canada, but none more so than her own niece, Luna Vachon, who has become a solid competitor.

Vivian's life came to a tragic end in 1991 when she and her daughter, Julie, were involved a head-on collision in Montreal. Vivian was 40 years old.

6 JAGUAR YOKOTA

Much like the competition involving their male counterparts, women's wrestling in Japan is at a highly technical and skilled level. Yokota, a 5'3" fireball, held the All-Japan Women's Wrestling Alliance title for all but one month between the years 1981 and 1985 and is acknowledged as the best her country has ever produced.

A wrestler's wrestler, Yokota used airplane spins, figure-four leglocks, and suplexes to gain victories. Tour after tour, she not only met and defeated the best from Japan, but also the top lady wrestlers from the U.S., including Wendi Richter, Judy Martin, Susan Starr, and Peggy Lee. She often tag teamed with Mimi Hagiwara, another huge fan favorite on the Japanese wrestling scene.

Many collectors avidly seek the many magazines, programs, calendars, etc. that feature Yokota in her prime.

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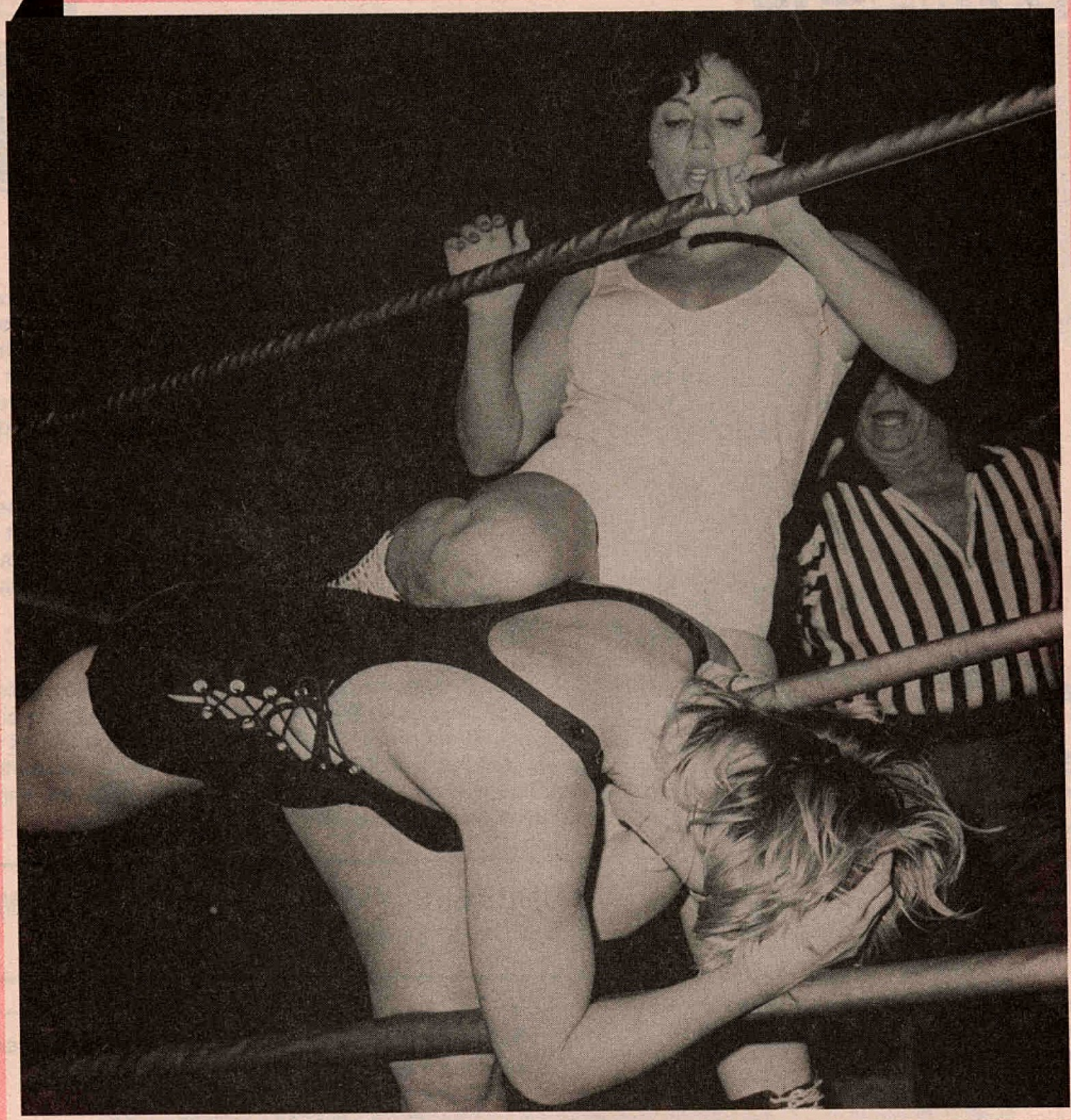
BETTY NICCOLI



Niccoli, one of the toughest lady wrestlers of all-time, seemingly enjoyed getting a crowd upset as much as winning a match. Though not exactly loved in leading Midwest mat centers such as St. Louis, Kansas City, and Omaha, fans respected her throw-caution-to-the-wind style.

A particularly hot feud with bitter rival Jean Antone became legendary. The two had such rough contests that one promoter finally matched them against each other in a boxing match. Probably her most famous match took place when she traveled west to wrestle Fabulous Moolah in Los Angeles. Although Moolah walked away with her champion belt, Niccoli's stature grew as a result of the hard-fought loss.

Niccoli was known to have a fiery temper with reporters, and threw more than one of them out of her dressing room. When she married Japanese matman Akio Sato, she seemed to mellow somewhat, but fans were not willing to cheer her after she spent so many years of bending the rules.

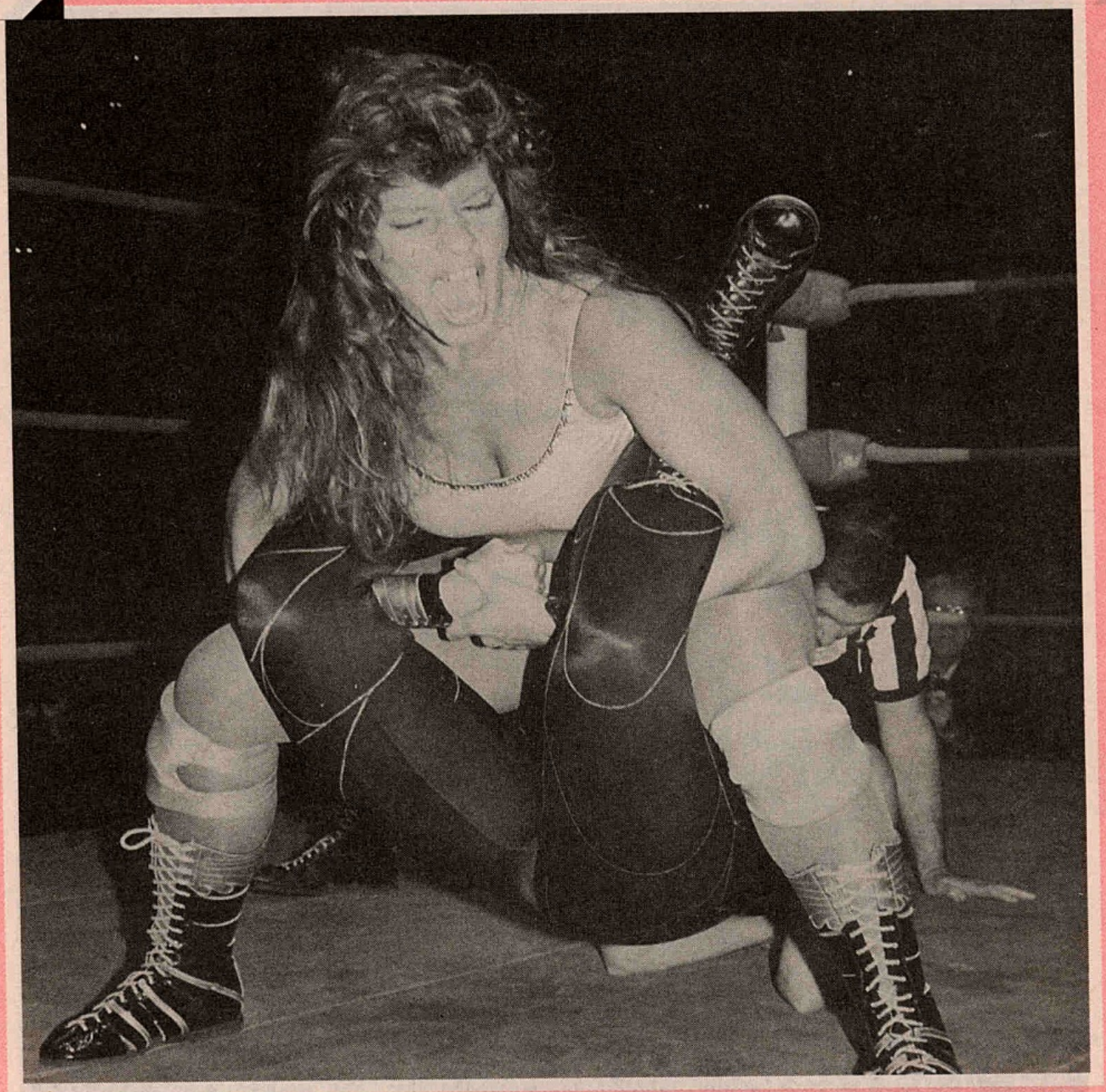
8 MAE WESTON

Trained for the pro wrestling game by world champion Everett Marshall, Weston's career spanned seven decades, a testament to her physical conditioning.

Weston, who took her name from actress Mae West, was never at a loss for a counterhold or throw. Although best-known for her toughness (rivals Mae Young and Mildred Burke would attest to that), she had brilliant acrobatic skills that she learned by the age of 16 on the carnival circuit. She also learned to box while working the carnivals, and she knocked out a few of the men who dared to challenge her.

At one point, Weston's sister also wrestled professionally, but she chose Rose Evans as her ring moniker. For a few years, Weston took the name of Ma Bass and became a controversial manager in the Oklahoma area. One fan took such a dislike to her methods that he actually shot her. Weston actually came back from the wound to resume her career.

9 WENDI RICHTER



During an all-too-brief period of time when women's wrestling was making headlines in the WWF, Richter was right at the forefront. She became such a hot commodity that she became the first woman featured on the cover of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* (April 1986) with the headline: "Women's Wrestling Comes Of Age: Is Wendi Richter More Popular Than Hulk Hogan?"

The question wasn't that farfetched. Months earlier, Richter was involved in one of the most heavily hyped matches ever when she and Fabulous Moolah met for the World title live on MTV in "The Brawl To Settle It All" on July 23, 1984. Richter was seconded by rock singer Cyndi Lauper, while Moolah was accompanied by Capt. Lou Albano. Richter won the match, ending Moolah's 28-year domination of the sport. Richter would lose the title to the Moolah-managed Lelani Kai the following February, and the rematch a month later would be for many the highlight of WrestleMania I.

Though Richter was able to regain the belt from Kai, she would lose it for the final time when Moolah (as the Masked Spider Lady) was able to summon one last brilliant effort, on November 25, 1985. Even though Richter's popularity never eclipsed Hogan's, the one-time "Texas Cowgirl" did leave a permanent—and very bright—mark on the sport.

10 MADUSA MICELI

Beautiful and powerful, intelligent and skilled, Miceli fits the ideal mold of "woman of the '90s" ... yet she still doesn't know exactly where she fits into the sport. One of three women to hold world titles in two separate federations (along with Wendi Richter and Sherri Martel), Madusa has seen the AWA dissolve and has burned bridges with the WWF (where she was known as Alundra Blayze) by publicly trashing its championship belt.

The native of Milan, Italy, broke into wrestling in 1985 after studying nursing and doing some modeling. She made an immediate impact on the sport in her first full year, 1987, winning the vacant AWA title over the heavily favored Candi Devine. Shortly after, she defeated Fabulous Moolah by countout and received high praise from the legendary superstar. She became the first woman ever to be voted Rookie of the Year by the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.

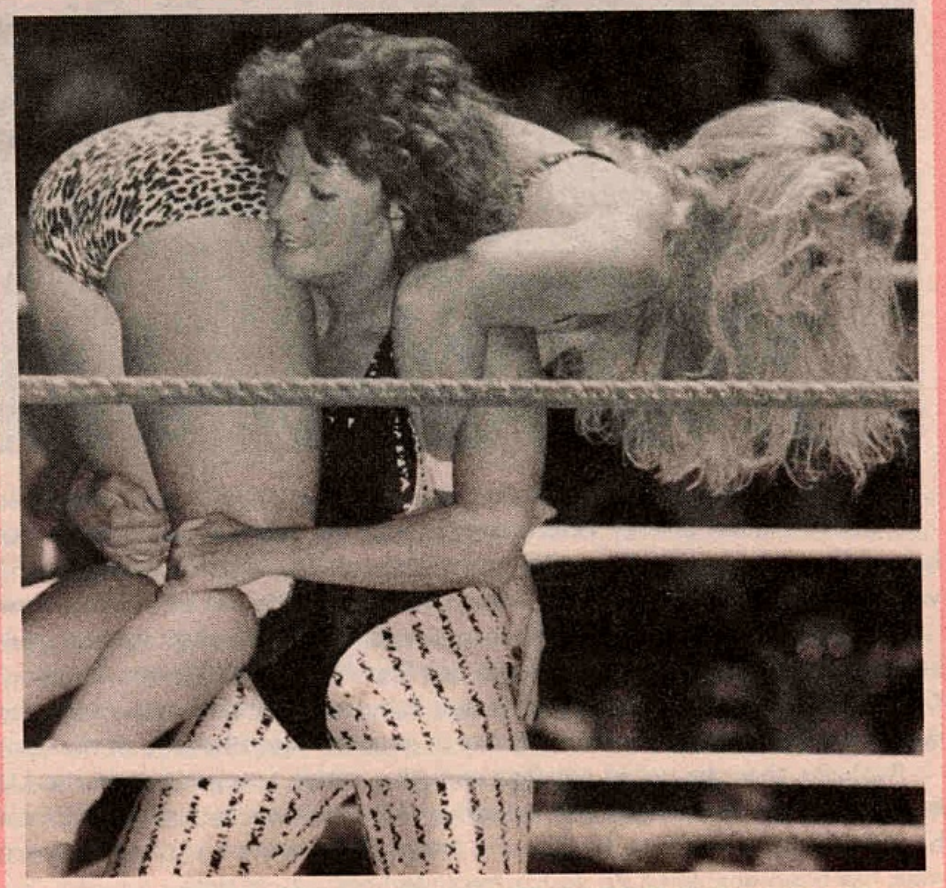
Realizing that she could not find enough suitable competition in the U.S., Madusa has spent a great deal of time in Japan, where she honed her wrestling skills, learned the art of kick-boxing, and became a pop culture hero. She has tried several times to further the image of women's wrestling with promoters and fans, but in spite of her abilities, has been unable to do so for extended periods of time.

11 ELLA WALDEK

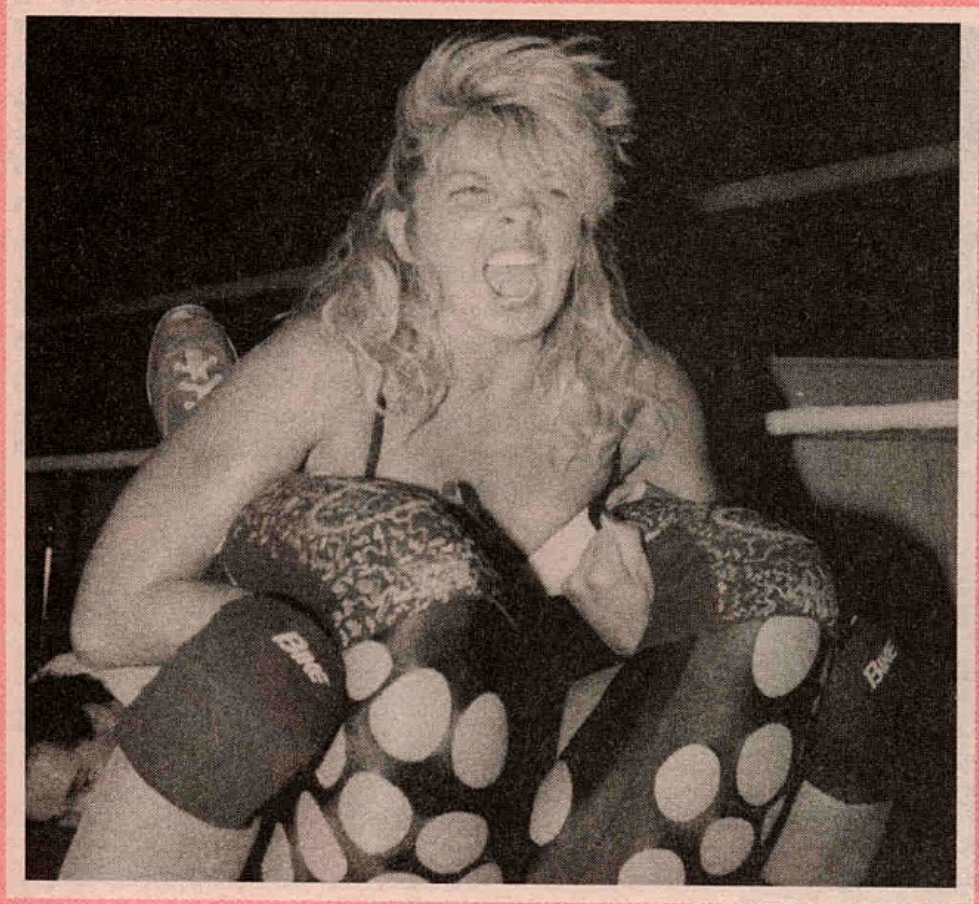
Waldek had it all: loads of athletic ability, brains, and movie star looks. Before turning to professional wrestling, she was a well-known roller derby star and a member of a nationally known softball team. Her love of danger and excitement was what drew her to the wrestling. She almost didn't make it. Before turning pro, she was involved in an airplane fire on a B-24 while part of a test pilot group. Waldek was born in Custer, Washington, of German parentage, and speaks fluent German. She was very popular in the South and was Florida state champion for many years. She is still very visible in the wrestling community, attending reunions in Seattle, Birmingham, and Las Vegas on a regular basis.

12 SHERRI MARTEL

Martel achieved her greatest fame as one of the sport's most controversial managers ever, but it must not be forgotten that she had a brilliant career as an active competitor. She won her first of three AWA world titles in September 1985, beating Candi Devine. Then, in July 1987, she upset Fabulous Moolah for the WWF Women's title. As a manager, she's a master tactician, but she always seems to run into problems because of her overwhelming need to be at the center of attention. Among those she has managed: Shawn Michaels, Randy Savage, Ted DiBiase, Buddy Rose, Doug Sommers, and Kevin Kelly, Harlem Heat, Shane Douglas, and Ric Flair.



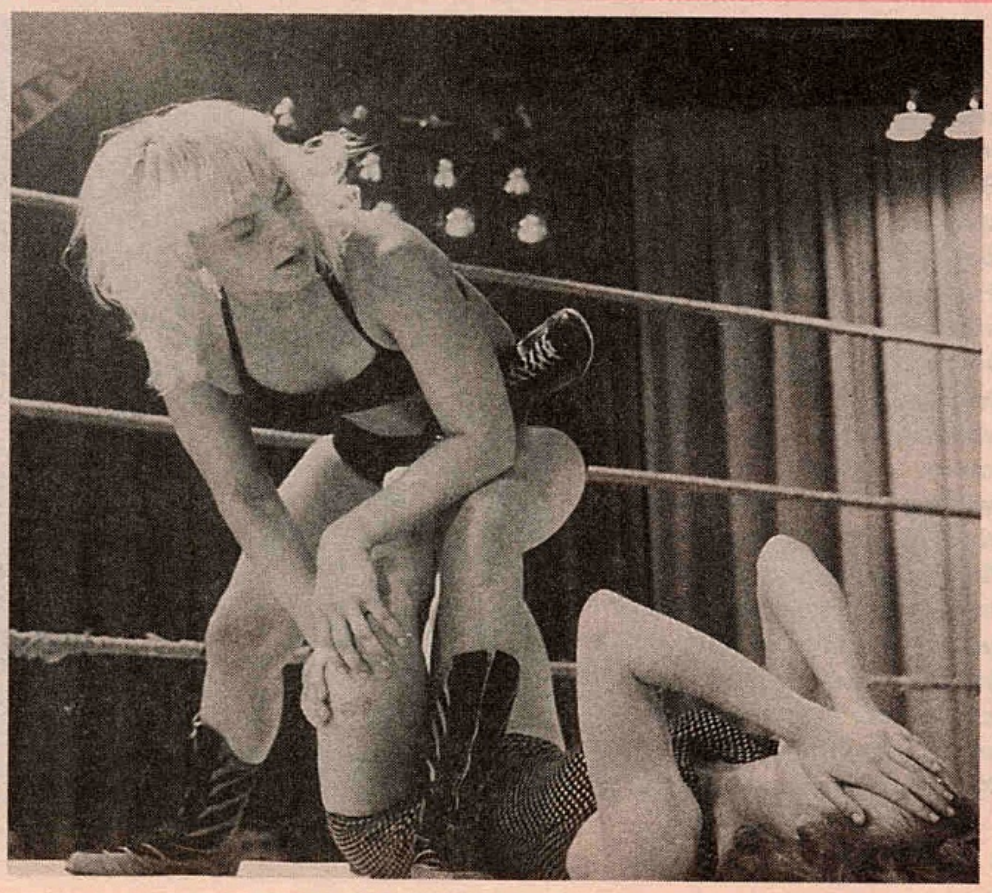
13 CANDI DEVINE



Few lady wrestlers have ever been held in higher esteem than Nashville's Candi Devine. A three-time holder of the AWA Women's championship, Devine's title matches against the likes of Sherri Martel, Judy Martin, and Diane Hoffman brought her great fame and fortune. In recent years, Devine has taken to the tag team wars on a regular basis, using Lisa Handzal as a regular partner. As a single, she has a red-hot feud going with rugged rookie Psycho Cybil.

14 PENNY BANNER

Billed as the "Wow Girl" for a famous string bikini publicity photo that she posed for with tag team partner Lorraine Johnson in the '50s, Banner still sports the physique and good looks that turn heads when she walks into a room. The first AWA Women's champion (by way of a tournament in 1961,) she retired before ever being defeated for her crown. Banner was generally considered the number-one contender to June Byers' title, and the two met many times in a series of tremendous battles. While wrestling in Texas, Banner had a series of mixed tag team matches with then-husband Johnny Weaver against the husband and wife duo of "Dandy" Jack Donovan and Verne Bottoms. Still a superior athlete, Banner has won medals in the Senior Olympic games.



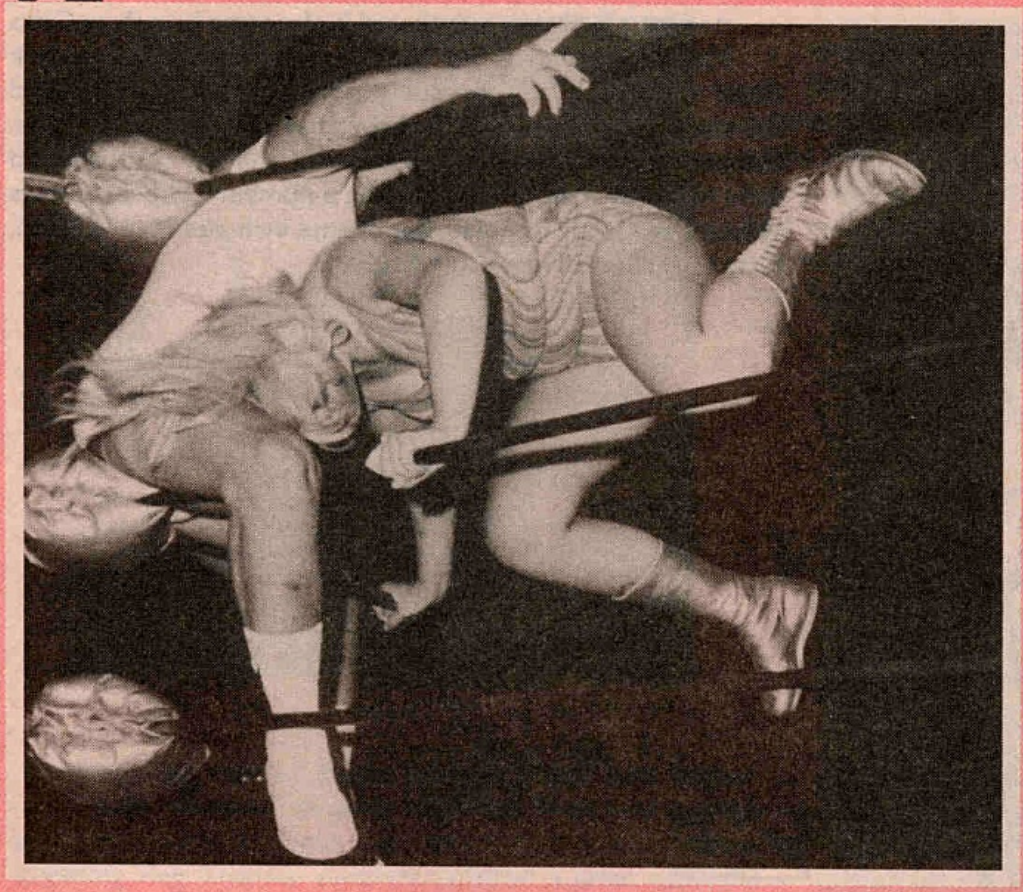
15 DEVIL MASAMI

Masami is considered the greatest rulebreaker in the history of Japanese wrestling. That is not to imply that she wasn't good box office. In fact, fans have always turned out in record numbers in hopes of seeing her defeated. An 18-year veteran of the sport, Masami (real name: Masami Yoshida) has held both the WWWA singles and tag team titles. Her most famous victory came on December 12, 1985, when she scored a solid victory over the great Dump Matsumoto. In 1992, she helped to establish the Japan Women Pro Wrestling (JWP.) Besides being a top-notch wrestler, she has an outstanding singing voice and has had a successful recording career.

16 BULL NAKANO

Nakano ranks up there with Devil Masami as the woman Japanese fans love to hate. Unlike Masami, Bull recently has wrestled in the United States in a number of significant matches. Her most recent important victory came over Akira Hokuto in Las Vegas at the annual L.I.W.A. charity convention card. Among her career highlights is a 1987 win over Chigusa Nagayo for the All-Japan Women's title. She has also done quite well in tag team matches over the years; she shared the All-Japan Women's tag team crown with Dump Matsumoto, Candor Saito, and Kumiko Iwamoto.

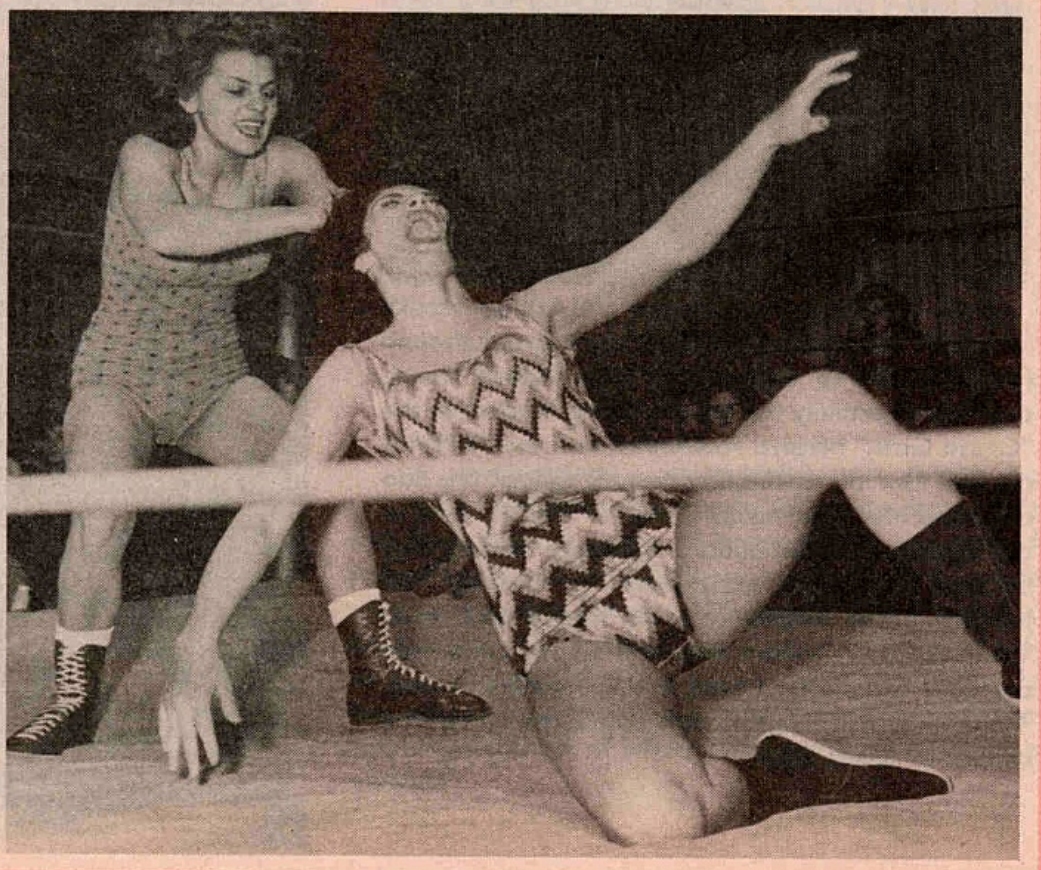
17 JOYCE GRABLE



One of the most well-known women wrestling figures of the '70s and '80s, Grable won the WWF Women's tag team title in both decades, the first in October 1974 with Vicki Williams and then with Wendi Richter in May 1982. Over the years, Grable adopted a rugged style that did not go over very well with the fans. Like many others on this list, she had a long-standing feud with Fabulous Moolah.

18 BETTE BOUCHER

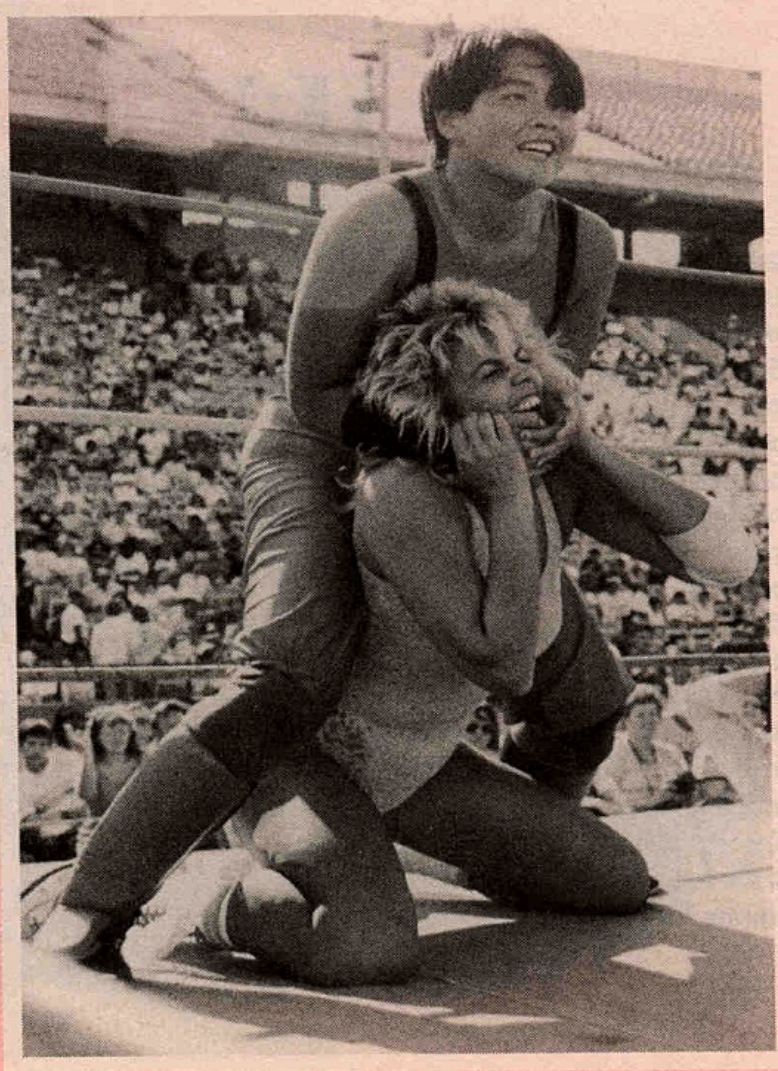
Boucher made the entire wrestling world sit up and take notice when she upset Fabulous Moolah for the World championship in Seattle, Washington, on September 17, 1966. Prior to that time, Bette was known primarily as a tag team competitor, frequently using her sister, Rita Boucher, as her partner. Although she held the crown for just a few days before losing it back to Moolah in a rematch, she will forever be remembered among women wrestlers in much the same way Ivan Koloff (conqueror of Bruno Sammartino) is remembered among the men.



19 ELVIRA SNODGRASS

Snodgrass is always mentioned in the same breath as Clara Mortensen and Cora Livingston when historians talk about the great lady wrestling pioneers. Old posters and newspaper clippings clearly show that she ducked no one, competing against all the top stars of the day. She is rated quite highly by Mae Young, who had a number of epic contests against her. Other frequent opponents included Mae Weston, Kitty Duvall, and The Purple Flash.

20 CHIGUSA NAGAYO



If the combination of Nagayo and Lioness Asuka wasn't the greatest women's tag team of all-time (and it's hard to dispute that they indeed were), they were certainly the most exciting. Known as the "Crush Girls," Nagayo and Asuka won the WWWA tag title four times, the first coming against the duo of Jumbo Hori and Yukari Omari in 1983. In one of the most celebrated bouts in Japanese history, they became three-time champions by beating The Jumping Bomb Angels—Noriyo Tateno and Itzuki Yamazaki. Two months after the Crush Girls won the belts for the final time, in 1989, Asuka retired. The charismatic Nagayo still competes under the banner of "Gaea Japan."

21 NELL STEWART

A blonde bombshell who was known for her good looks and devil-may-care ring style, Stewart was a particularly big attraction in Texas, where she reigned many years as the state champion. With her hair flying every which way, Stewart was known to tear into each and every opponent with the fury of a hurricane at the sound of the opening bell. Many consider her to be the best lady wrestler that never wore a major championship belt.

22 THERESE THEIS

Trained by Hall of Fame football player and former World champion Bronko Nagurski, Theis was a great ice skater who brought her speed and agility to the wrestling ring. Therese recently suffered a great personal loss with the passing of her beloved husband, Ray "The Crippler" Stevens. Always the bearer of a friendly smile, Therese is president of the Ladies International Wrestling Association, an organization that has been promoting cards and doing other fundraising for the past 12 years in an effort to build a retirement home for wrestlers.

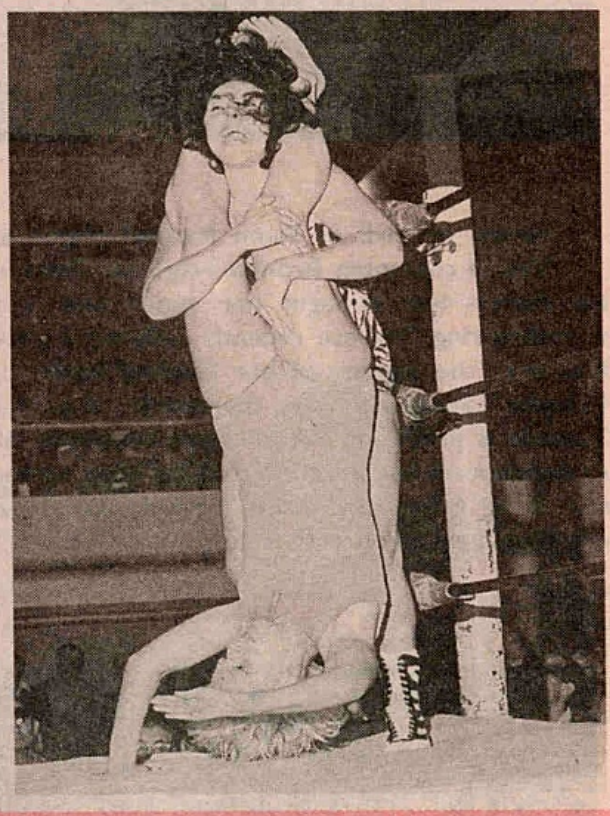
23 DONNA CHRISTANTELLO

The raven-haired Christantello will always be remembered for her lengthy World tag team reign with Toni Rose. A series of bouts against the duo of Joyce Grable and Vicki Williams set a standard against which women's tag team matches are measured to this day. Christantello entered wrestling when she contacted a Pittsburgh promoter on a dare. A natural inside the squared circle, the rulebreaking Christantello would never think of returning to her original job as a waitress.

24 AKIRA HOKUTO

While fans in Japan are never sure if they should cheer or boo Hokuto, they universally respect her competitive spirit. With a style that incorporates high-risk maneuvers such as dives off the top rope onto an opponent outside the ring, the two-time All-Pacific champion continually demonstrates that to her, victory is more important than personal safety. Her match this summer in Las Vegas against Bull Nakano for the vacant Japanese title was a perfect illustration of why wrestlers from her country are starting to get universal recognition as the best in the world.

25 SHIRLEY STRIMPLE



A blonde-haired beauty who favored leopard-skinned ring attire, Strimple was a huge Midwest favorite in the '50s. Strimple married wrestler Roy McClarty inside the ring at Boston Garden, and actually teamed with her husband in mixed matches against another husband/wife duo, Mario DeSouza and Lorraine Johnson.

26 VICKI WILLIAMS

Many thought of Williams as the female counterpart to legendary high-flyer Antonino Rocca. Her favorite maneuvers were the dropkick and the flying headscissors. Her greatest match was a loss against World champion Fabulous Moolah in Fort Worth, Texas. But tag team wrestling was her forte, and she and Joyce Grable stunned fans when they took the World tag team title from Toni Rose and Donna Christantello in 1974.

27 LIZ CHASE

This 17-year veteran was originally attracted to the world of professional wrestling when she met some pros at a gym who had been training under Larry Lane through Joe Blanchard's San Antonio promotion. Chase later was put through her paces by Donna Christantello at Fabulous Moolah's training camp. She is known for her bravery and moxie in the ring, not too surprising when one considers the fact that at the tender age of 18, while in the Army, she became the first female to join the infantry medical unit during the Vietnam War.

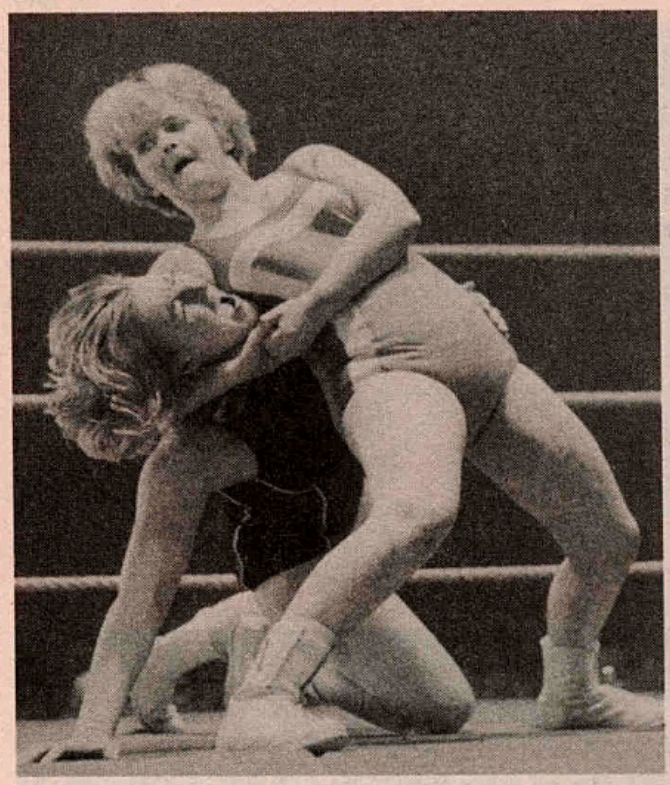
28 JUDY GRABLE

The most famous series of wrestling matches in the history of women's competition took place between Judy Grable and Fabulous Moolah. It was after a tournament final victory over Grable on September 18, 1956, that Moolah began her incredible 28-year reign as champion. For those fans not fortunate enough to see the high-flyer (Grable) and brawler (Moolah) tear into each other, their ring fury was preserved by the great grappling photographer Bob Utter and displayed for many years in penny arcade machines in fair midways from coast to coast.

29 MILLIE STAFFORD

Stafford hailed from St. Paul, Minnesota, and was another of the superstars who wrestled under the booking genius of the late Billy Wolfe. She was a top draw and a huge purse earner when she and partner June Byers were the World tag team champions during the '50s. Her biggest feud, though, was against Kathy Starr, who at the time was recognized as the United States champion.

30 JEAN ANTONE



Considered one of the great lightweights, her ring nicknames included "Little Miss Dynamite" and "Gidget." Night after night she proved that a good little wrestler can indeed beat a good big wrestler. Career highlights included a long-standing feud with Betty Niccoli and a Grand Prix Title bout vs. Vivian Vachon.

31 KAY NOBLE

Noble took to the ring when she was a mere teenager. The mat speedster started out under the careful eye of St. Joseph promoter Gus Karras and was an immediate sensation, earning much magazine coverage as a rookie for bouts against already established lady wrestlers such as Penny Banner. At one point she was married to Doug Gilbert, another popular young mat star of the mid-'60s.

32 TONI ROSE

The fans loved to hate Toni Rose and she loved every second of it. One person she did get along with very well was Donna Christantello. Together, the two were the top tag team in the lady ranks for a number of years. Besides their legendary feud against Joyce Grable and Vicki Williams, Rose demolished other top stars such as Dorothy Carter and Brenda Scott.

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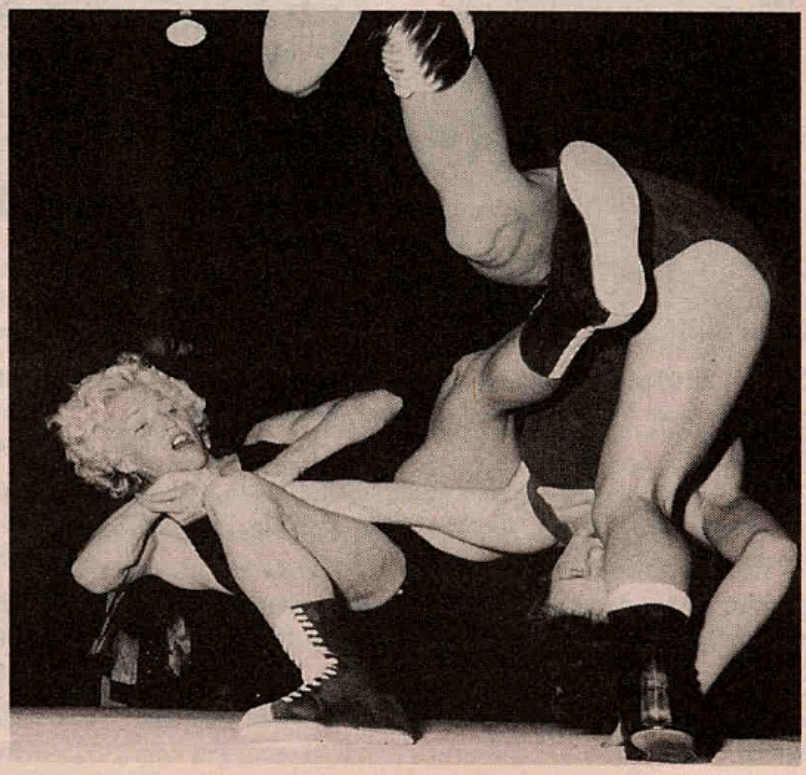
33 PRINCESS LITTLE CLOUD

As a young girl, Little Cloud built up tremendous stamina by running endless miles out in the desert. During many matches, she would pretend to be out of wind and on the verge of defeat, then turn it on full-steam against the unsuspecting opponent. She and then-husband Eddie Sharkey, a top junior heavyweight of the time, were never defeated in a mixed tag team contest.

34 LORRAINE JOHNSON



Johnson was from Red Wing, Minnesota, home of the great boot manufacturers, and quite proud of it. She once told reporters that winning the Minnesota Lady Wrestling crown was the most important victory during her illustrious career. One might dispute that fact, and instead point to her lengthy reign as World tag team champions with Penny Banner. Once married to Mario DeSouza, she later wed Nick Roberts, and helped him promote Lubbock, Texas, cards for many years.

35 ETHEL JOHNSON

The first African-American woman wrestler, Johnson paved the road for civil rights and the woman's movement in the sport. Other women of color such as Babs Wingo, Louise Greene, and Virginia Franklin tried to steal her thunder, but soon found out just why Johnson was number one. A smooth ring stylist, the beautiful Atlanta, Georgia, native had fans of all races and ages.

36 RITA CORTEZ

Cortez was nicknamed "The Mexican Spitfire," and that she was! She loved to wrestle by the rules, but showed her legendary temper when fouled by an opponent. A tremendous drawing card in the Southwest, she later became the darling of fans in New England. Cortez had such an intense feud going with Fabulous Moolah that promoters had to take precautionary measures to keep them far away from each other away from the ring.

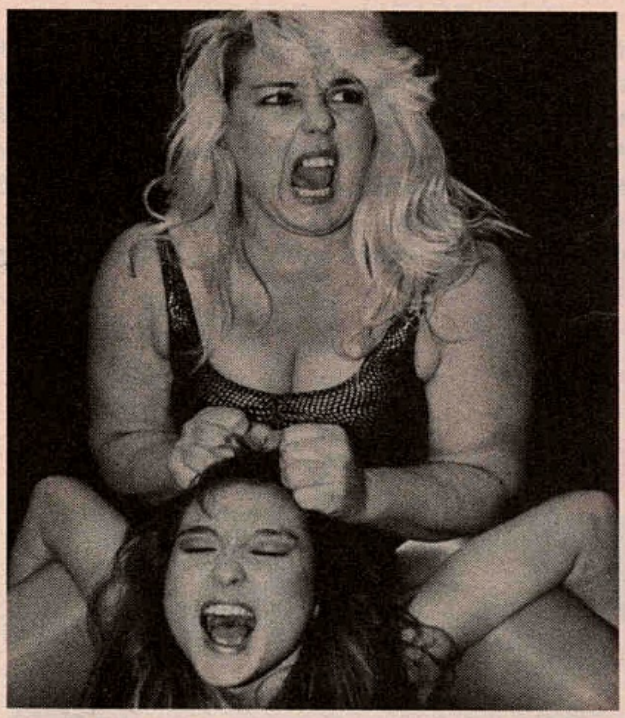
37 HELEN HILD

Today, Hild is mentioned primarily as Ted DiBiase's mother. But that is selling the woman short. In the '40s and '50s, she was always rated as one of top female competitors in the game. Originally hailing from Philadelphia, she was discovered while modeling professionally in Austin, Texas. Her husband, of course, was "Iron" Mike DiBiase.

38 JUDY MARTIN

One of the toughest veteran stars in the game today, Martin is in great demand not only as a singles competitor, but also for tag team matches. Martin regularly teams with Lelani Kai as "The Glamour Girls." She became an instant legend in Japan when she upset Yukari Omori for the All-Pacific title. Ironically, she gained an even greater level of respect from Japanese fans when she was beaten for the title by Mimi Hagiwara in a tremendous match.

39 LELANI KAI



Lelani Kai is extremely proud of hailing from Hawaii, and she wears colorful ring robes and outfits that represent the islands' beauty and majesty. What a contrast to her wrestling style! Once the bell sounds, Kai is as rugged as any woman in the sport. She seems to take particular glee in messing up pretty young wrestlers. Like partner Martin, she, too, has won and lost the All-Pacific title (both against Chigusa Nagayo). Kai, managed by Fabulous Moolah, held the WWF Women's title for a month in 1985 after beating Wendi Richter.

40 DEBBIE COMBS

Combs is the only one among our Top 50 that is a second-generation pro. Cora Combs is very proud that her daughter followed in her footsteps. In fact, before Cora hung up her boots for the last time, she and Debbie teamed up for a few matches and were never beaten. They also acted together in the play *Ten Nights In A Barroom,* which was a huge success in St. Louis. Away from the ring, Debbie is a successful florist in Nashville.

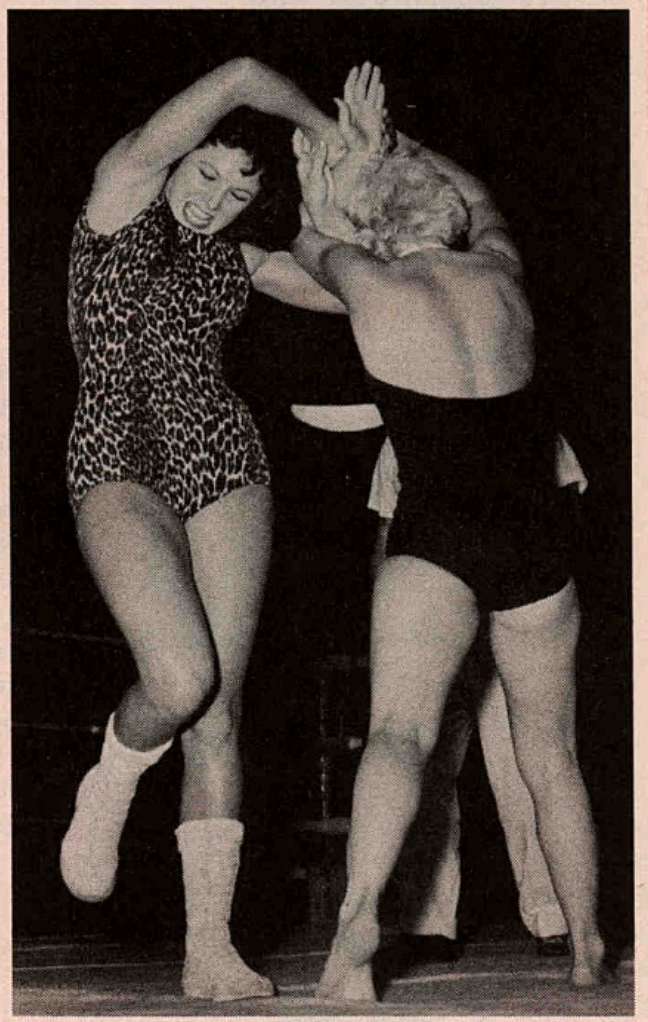
41 REGGIE BENNETT

Bennett is the only U.S. lady wrestler residing in Japan, and she is competing on an equal basis with the country's fine technical stars. When she first started wrestling professionally, the powerfully built Bennett wore a hardhat into the ring and appealed to blue-collar workers. Today, she is a phenomenon with teenage girls in Japan.

42 SUSAN GREEN

Green not only presented herself as a Texas cowgirl, complete with cowboy hat, fringed buckskin jacket, and hand-crafted custom-made Western-style boots, she also finished the vast majority of her matches with the bulldog headlock, a move she learned from watching rodeo contests. So popular is this export from the Lone Star State that even wrestling buffs from Oklahoma appreciate and applaud her.

43 ANN CASEY



Ann Casey is well-remembered for her striking leopard-skin ring attire and her ability to strike out against an opponent in cat-like manner, swift and deadly. In her prime, she was a media darling and was featured regularly in all of the wrestling magazines. She more than fulfilled the hype. She ended her career in Los Angeles several years back, but has been training for a comeback.

44 MARS BENNETT

Bennett's background was in the circus, where she was a strongwoman and a high-wire artist. During her prime in the '50s, she put her incredible strength to good use, dominating opponents with bearhugs, backbreakers, and full-nelsons. The former Southern champion had a long-running rivalry with a pretty blonde by the name of Belle Drummond.

45 CAROL COOK

Cook is considered one of the most beautiful women in the sport's history. When once asked why she didn't accept the many movie contracts offered her, she responded that she wouldn't get the same thrills that she did in pitting her athletic skills against those of another. She definitely had the crowds on her side when she challenged champions Mildred Burke and June Byers, but never could win the title from either one.

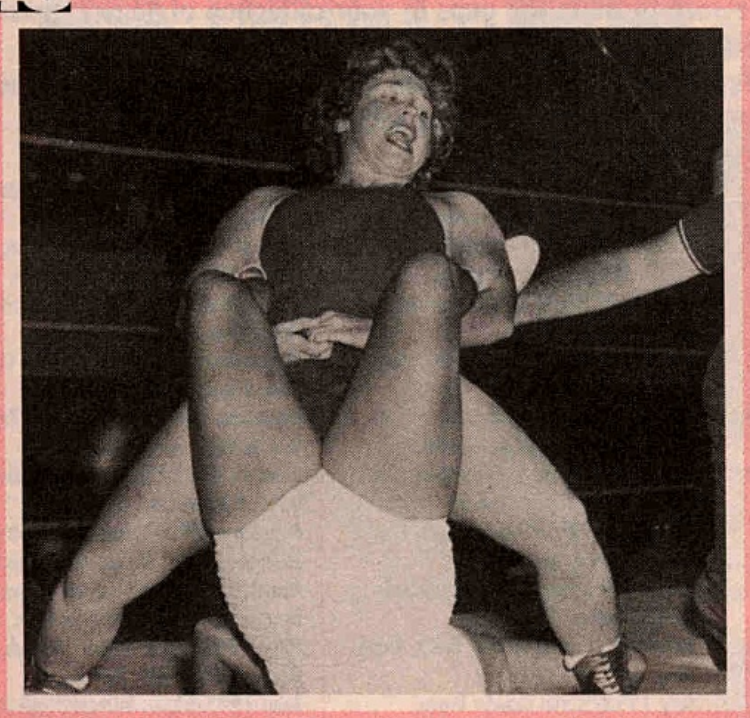
46 SUSAN SEXTON

The first Australian woman to make it big in the United States, Sexton was a feared brawler in her prime and still wrestles from time to time today. Sexton would prefer to keep the action on the mat, most often targeting an opponent's legs and feet. The versatile blonde led a rock band in the early-'80s and reads tarot cards in Los Angeles.

47 WENONA LITTLE HEART

As a little girl, Little Heart looked up to the famous Indian lady wrestlers before her: Tona Tomah and Princess Little Cloud. And like them, she made a slashing judo chop to the throat after tossing an opponent into the ropes her finisher. A true pro, she wrestled hard whether a crowd numbered a few hundred in attendance, or many thousands. She was one challenger Fabulous Moolah never looked forward to facing.

48 KATHY STARR



When historians talk about the great feuds in women's wrestling, the one between Starr and Millie Stafford is always mentioned. It seemed that the two didn't want to just defeat one another, they wanted to chase each other out of wrestling completely. During her long reign as U.S. champion, Starr beat top stars such as Jessica Rogers, Mae Goodner, and Kathy Branch.

49 VIVIAN ST. JOHN

As a teenaged wrestling fan in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, St. John yearned for the day when she would hear the cheers that her favorites, Dusty Rhodes and Jack Brisco, did. She worked hard while being trained by Fabulous Moolah and never let up. St. John wrestled in some of the sport's most prestigious venues, including New York City's Madison Square Garden and New Orleans' Superdome.

50 SUE BRITTAIN

For a number of years, Brittain was the queen of the ring in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. She was the master of the highly technical European chain style of holds and counters. It would have been interesting to see her stretched beyond the restrictions of the European round system to the more cut-loose North American format.

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April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
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November 1995/Stories include: Hogan, Wright, Tatanka, Backlund-Clinton.
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February 1996/Stories include: 1996 predictions, Goldust, Sherri-Parker.
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May 1996/Stories include: Austin, Public Enemy, Vader, Sasaki, weirdness.

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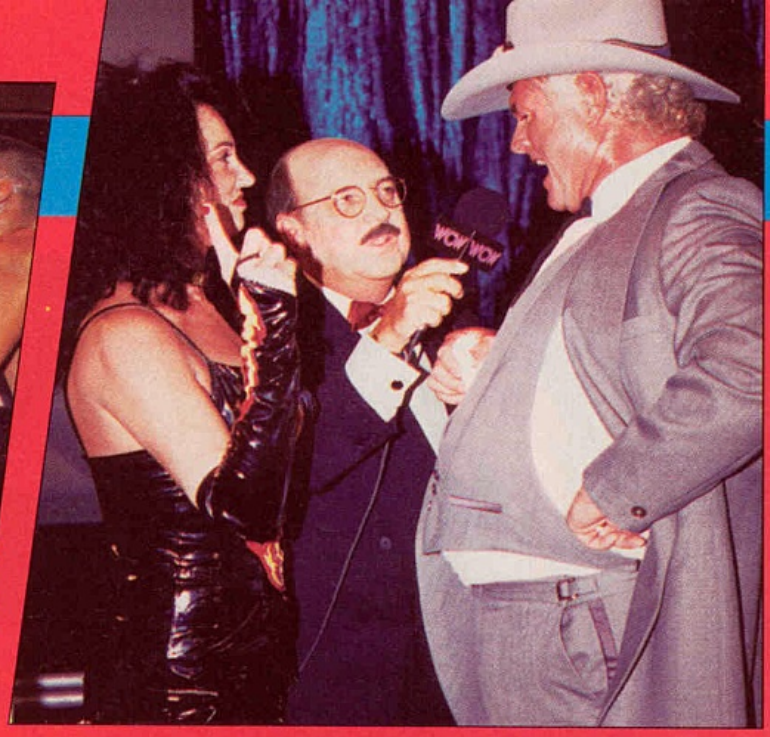
KIMONA WANA-LAYA

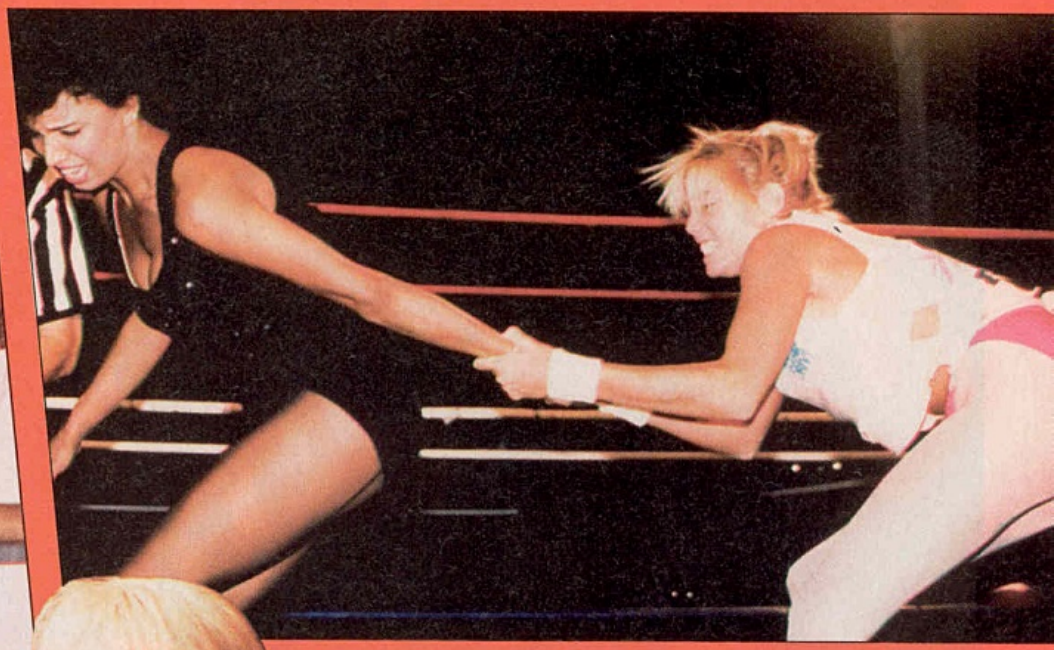
What's in a name? Sometimes a lot if you're of Hawaiian heritage. Laugh at her moniker if you must, but this sly, quiet beauty is a serious force to be reckoned with.

SHERRI MARTEL

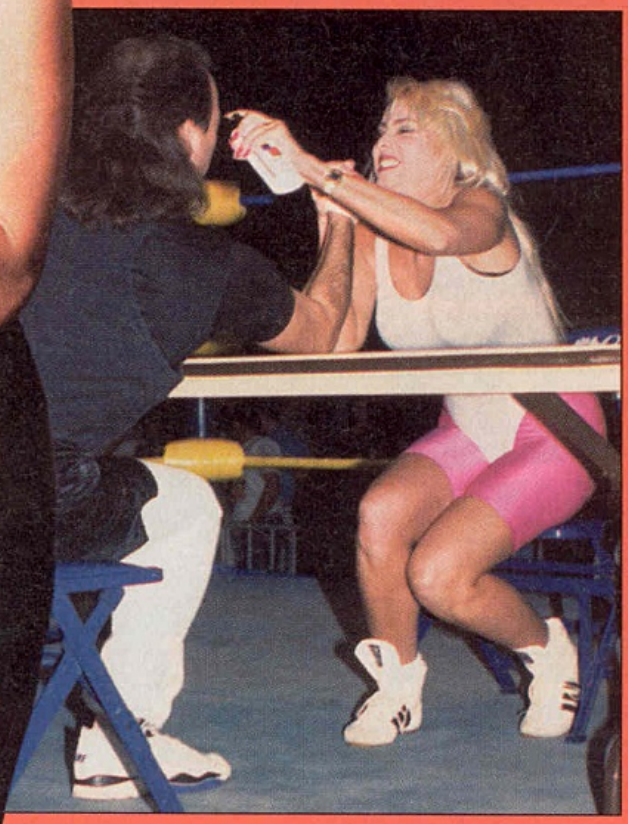


She's a former "Macho" queen who's now smitten with a colonel. She'll attack you when you're down, jump you when you're in trouble, or take a punch just to prove she can survive in a man's world. Don't mess with Sister Sherri!

Missy Hyatt



Missy's a woman with all the right curves and a lot of nerve. In the heat of battle, she'll scratch and pull and yank and tear. Outside, though, you never know what she'll do for attention.



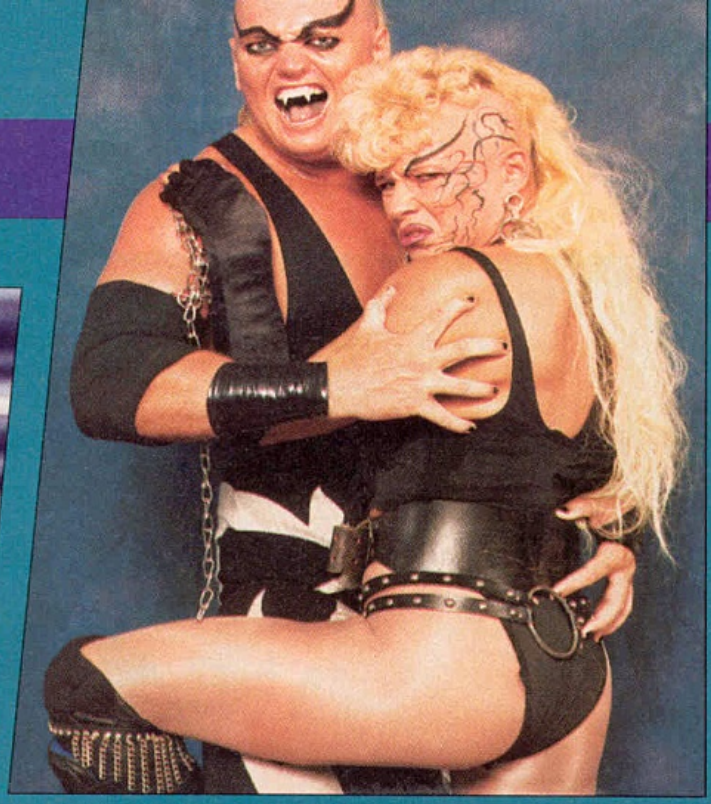
MADUSA

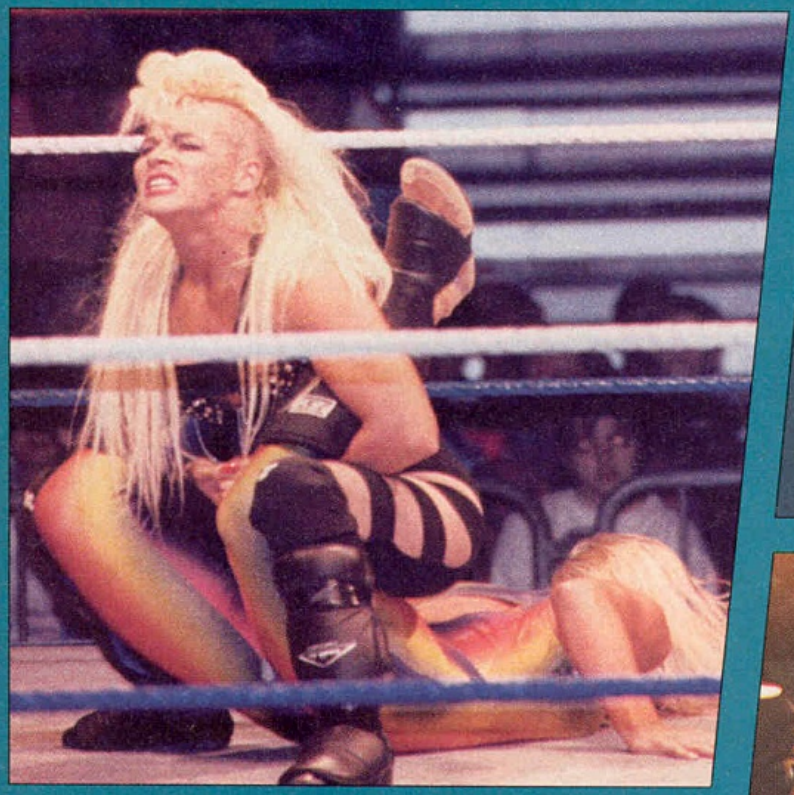
She's a knockout in a bikini … dazzling in a dress. Think a magnificent body is Madusa's best asset? Her many foes—male and female—beg to disagree. Very beautiful and a little nasty—that's Madusa for you.

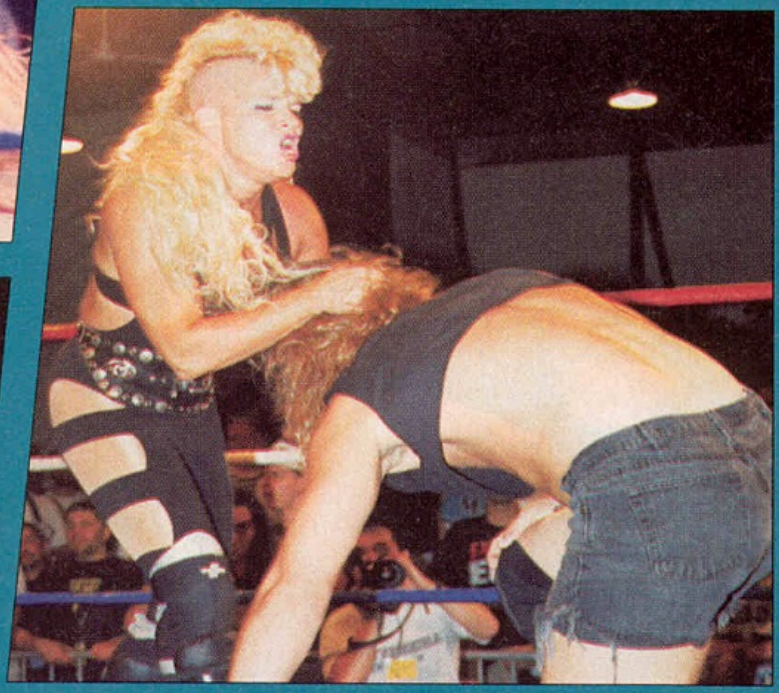
MISS TEXAS

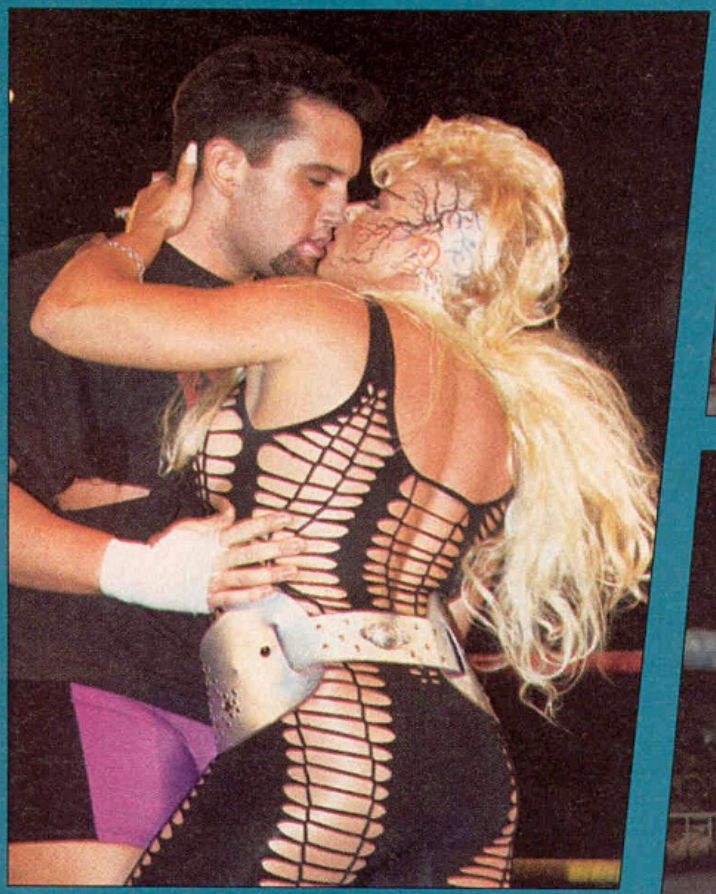
Don't let those good looks and that sweet smile fool you. Miss Texas will drive you into the mat, twist your arm 'til it will twist no more, introduce you to a guard rail, or kick you where you'll feel it … all in the name of good, clean competition.

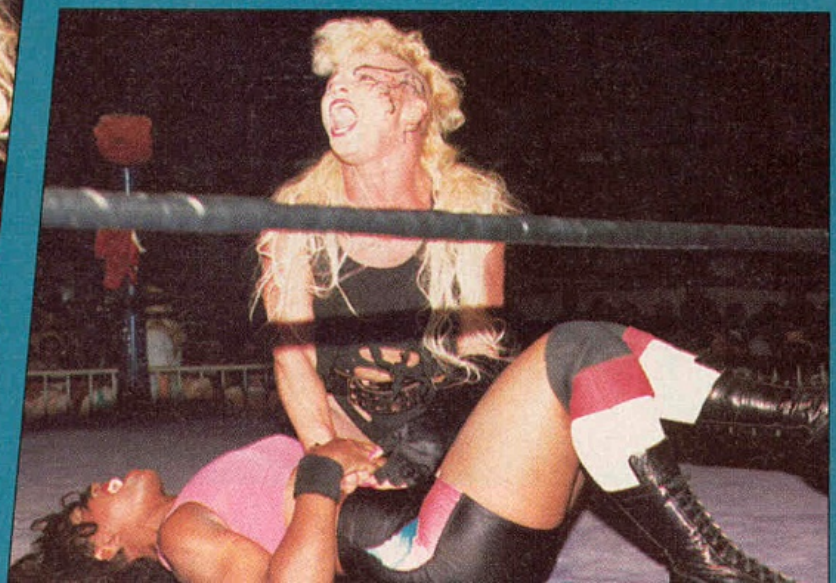
LUNA VACHON



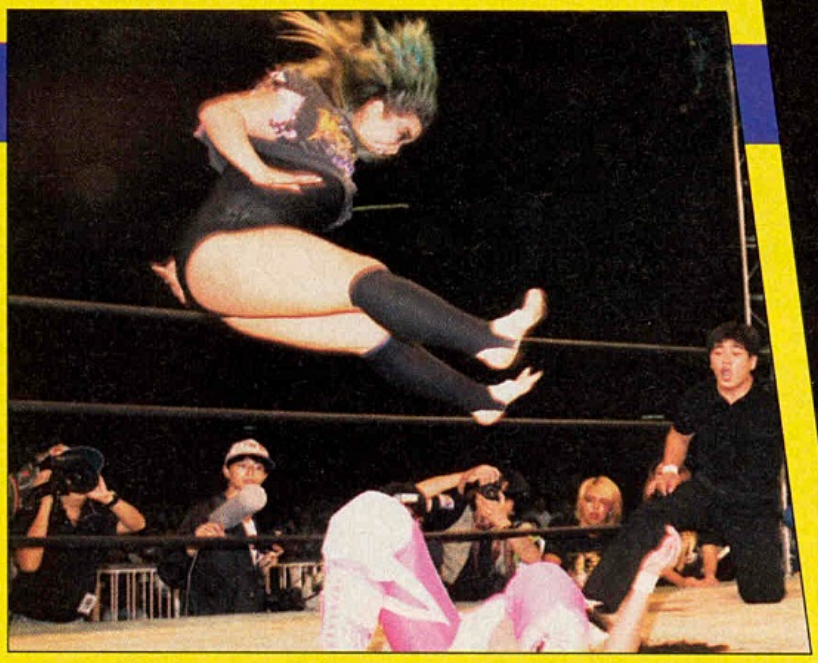


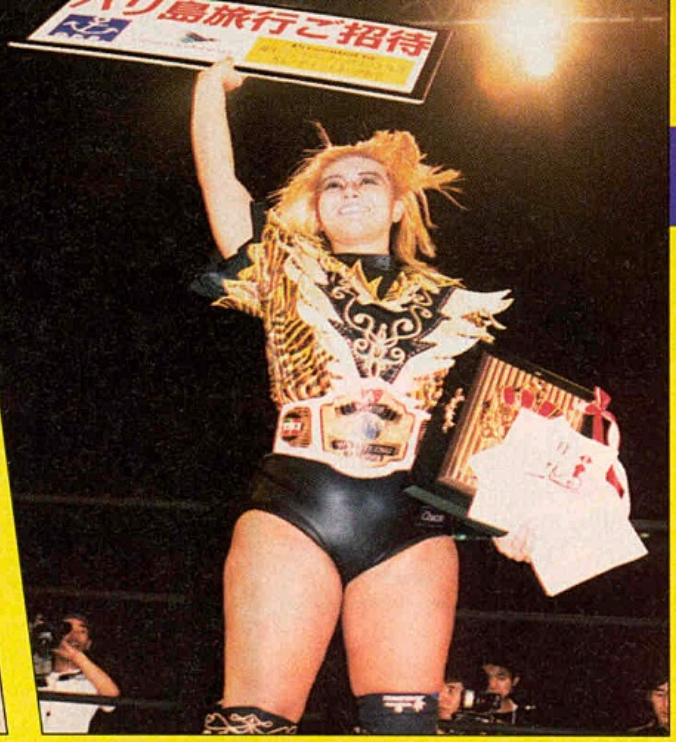






No woman likes to be judged solely on her looks, but when you look at Luna, you can just tell that if she doesn't like you, you don't want to be near her. And that goes for men and women.

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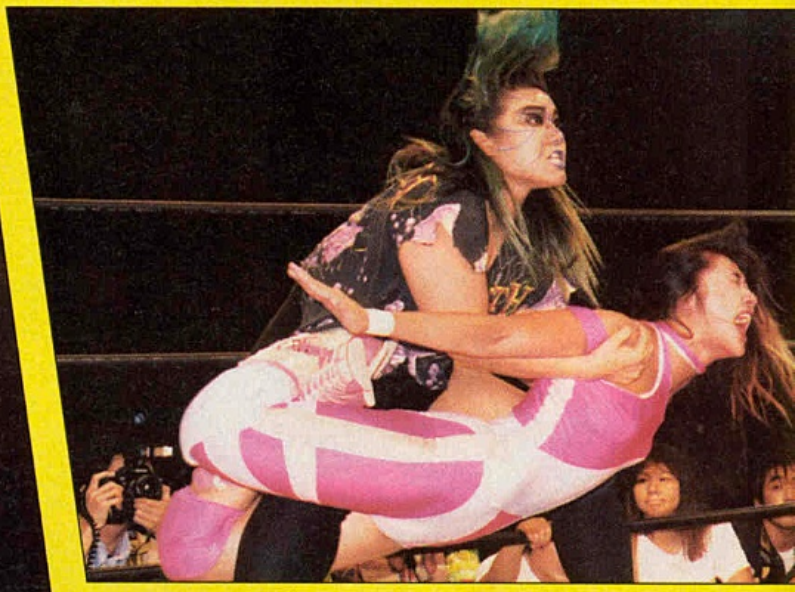


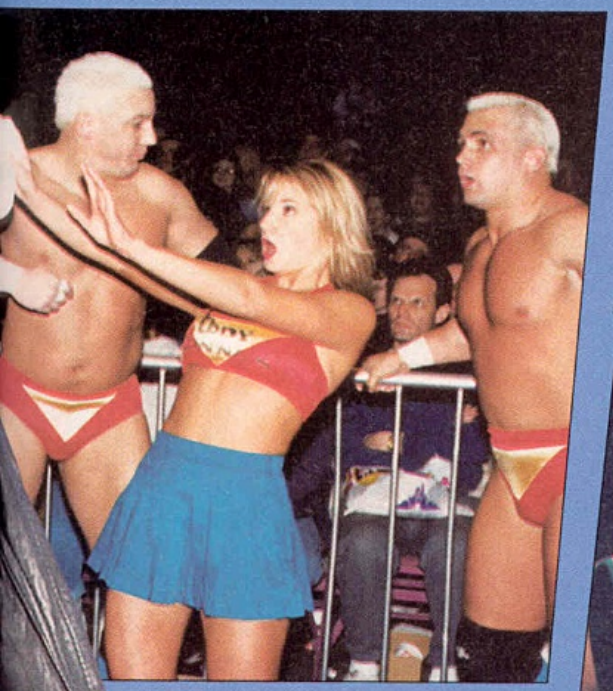
BULL NAKANO

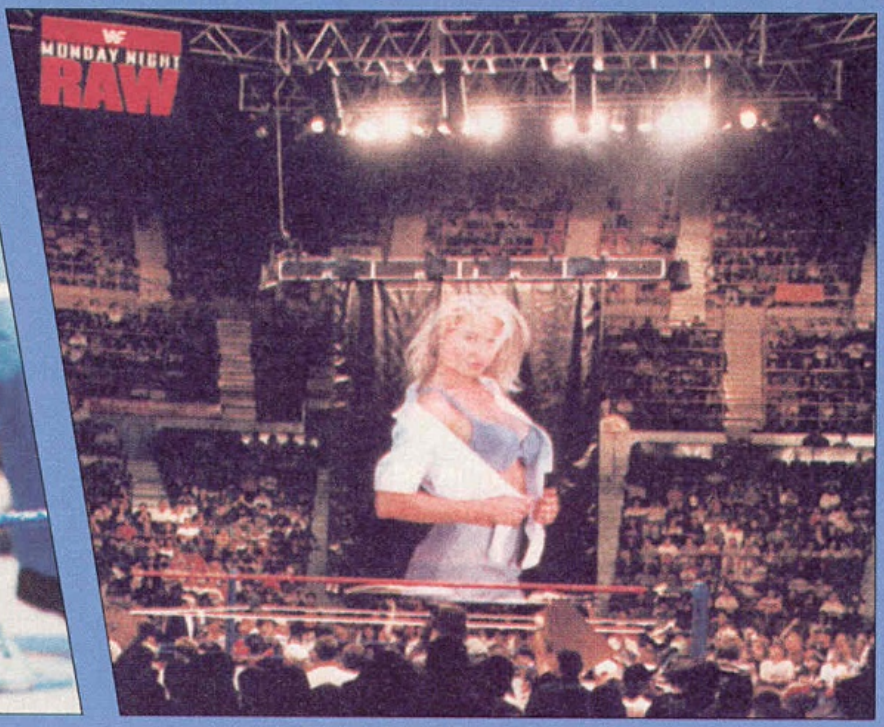
What color will Bull's hair be tonight? The better question is this: What method will she use to torture her opponent du jour for tonight? A soft, sensitive side? Nakano has none.

SUNNY

Sunny, Sunny, Sunny. She goes where the gold (and spotlight) is and always stands by her men (as long as they're winning). She won't take lip from any man or woman, but she will show some leg … and a little cheek. Sunny, Sunny, Sunny.

EXIT

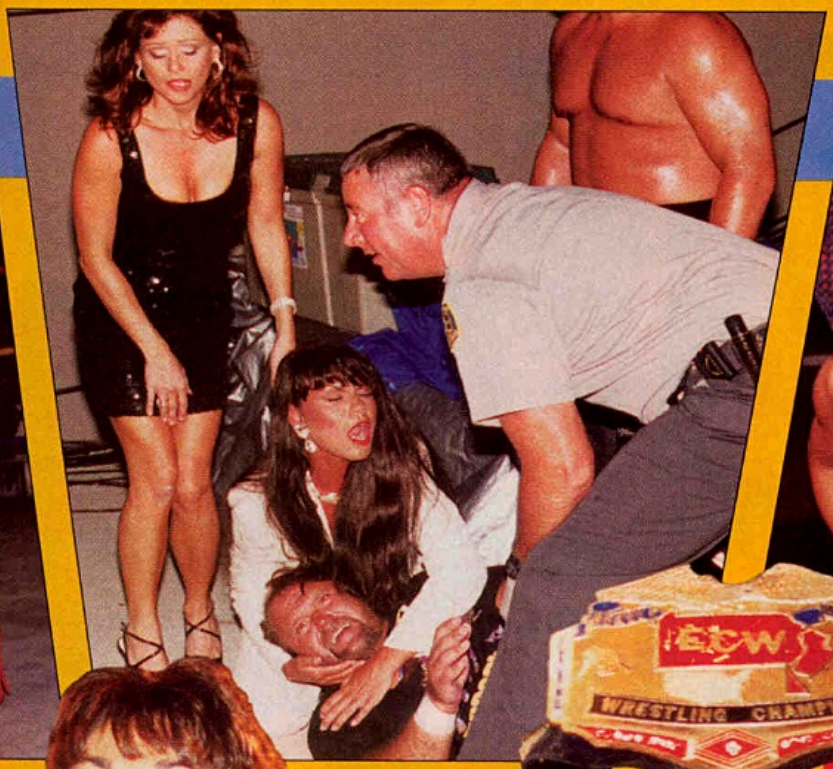



WF
MONDAY NIGHT
RAW

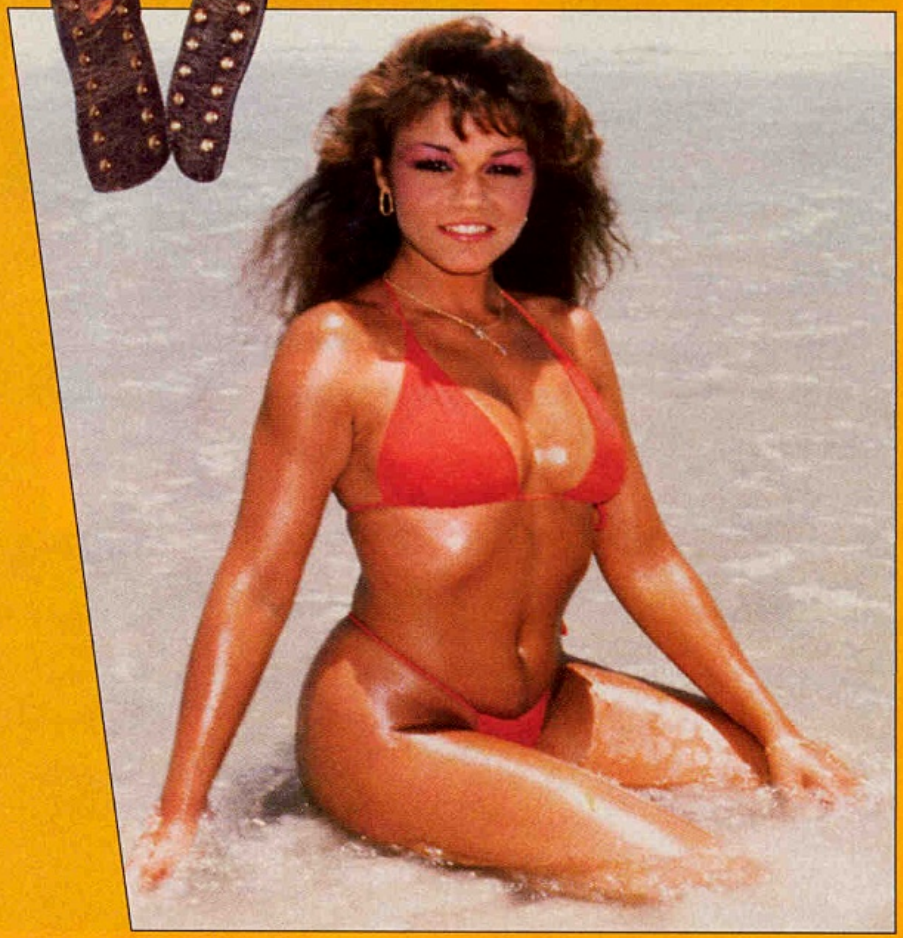
MARLENA

Every Hollywood star needs a great director, but not every star has a director as alluring and mysterious as Marlena. The obsession with all things gold … those cigars … the sadistic side. Goldust has quite a woman. Someday, a Slammy will be hers.

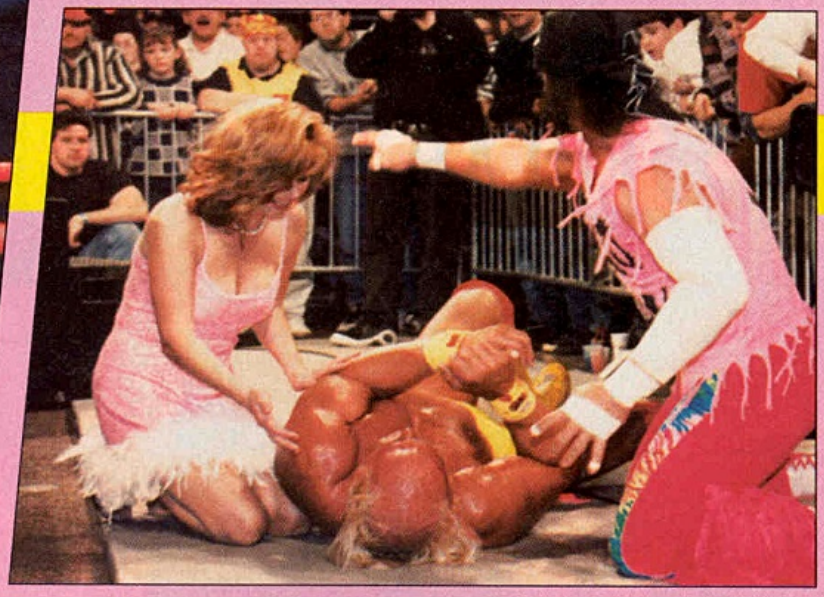
WOMAN



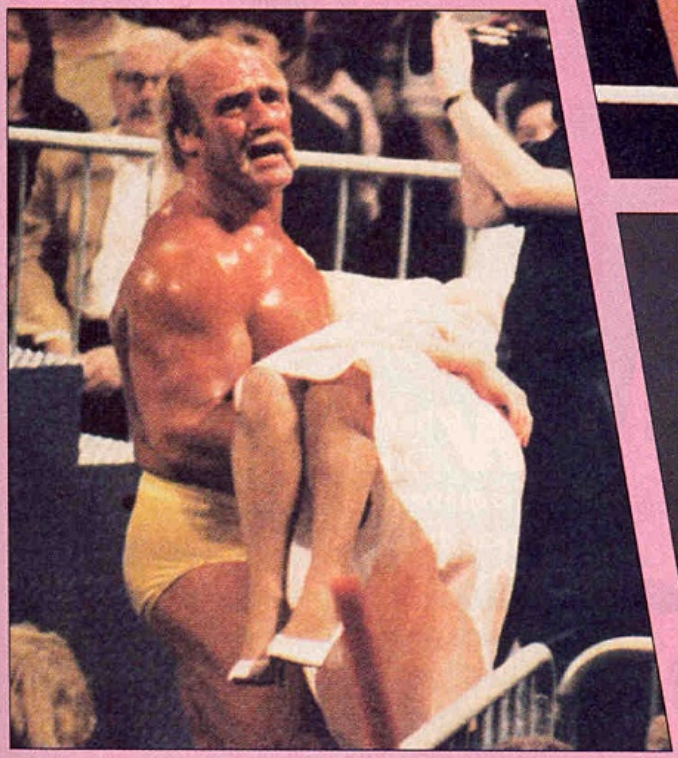
She goes where she wants … terrorizes who she hates … takes home the gold … and sometimes shows her softer side. But she'll never say she's sorry. She *is* Woman.

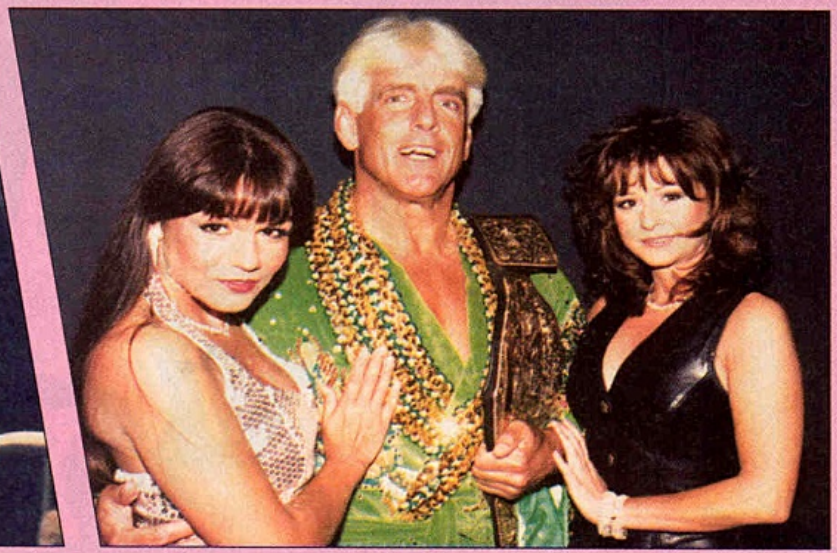


ELIZABETH

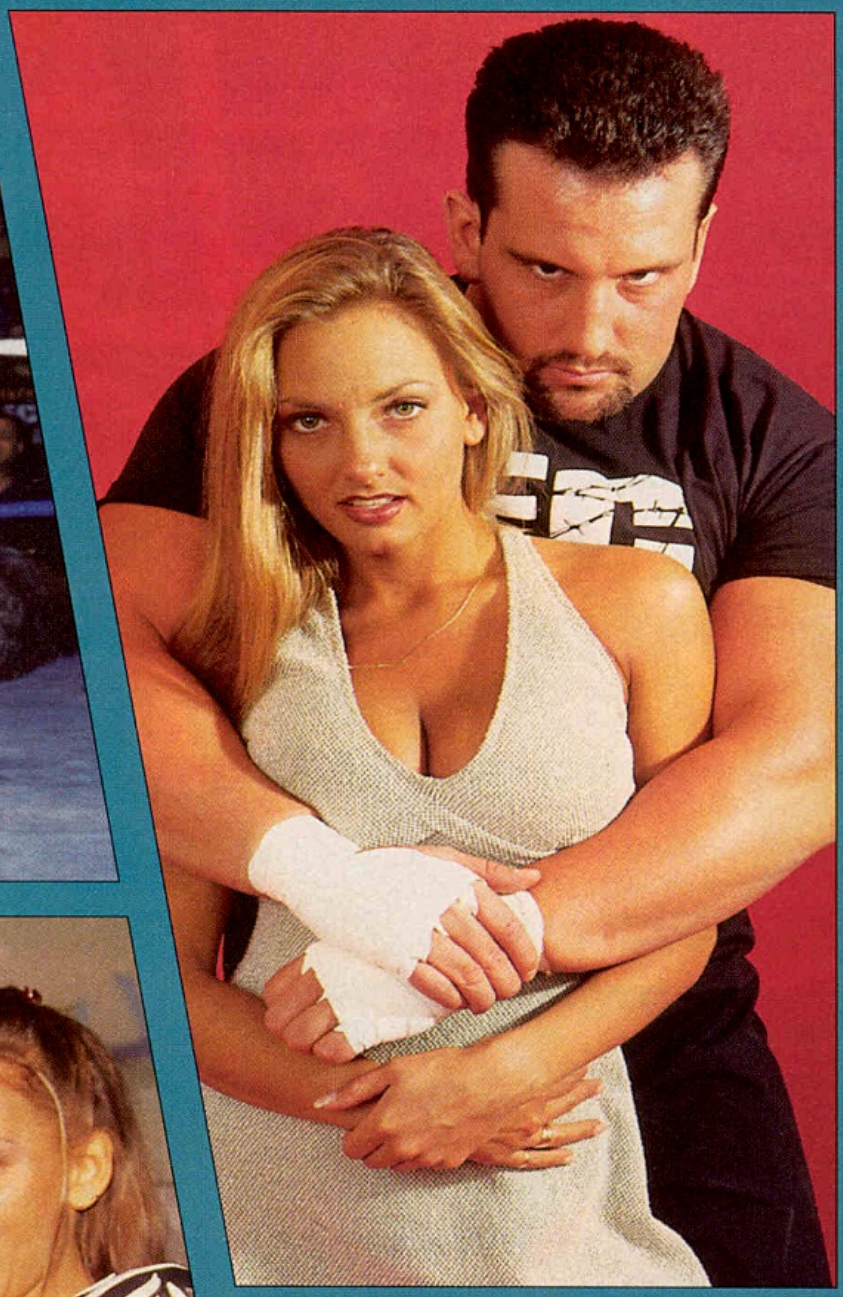


Who is the real Elizabeth? Is she a loyal wife and friend with a heart of gold and a purse that stings? Is she just a confused damsel in distress? How about a greedy gold digger? Will we ever know?





BEULAH McGILLICUTTY

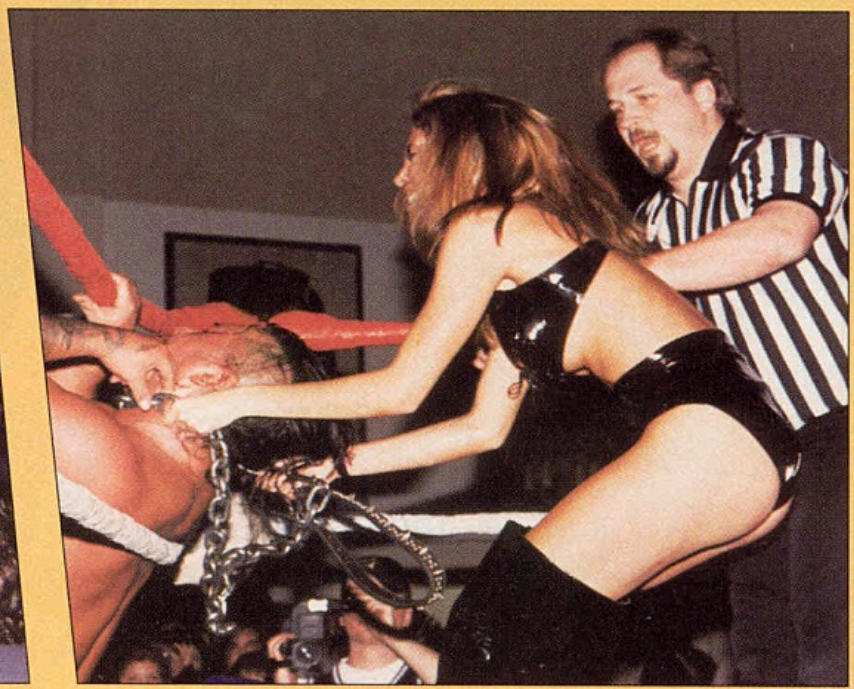


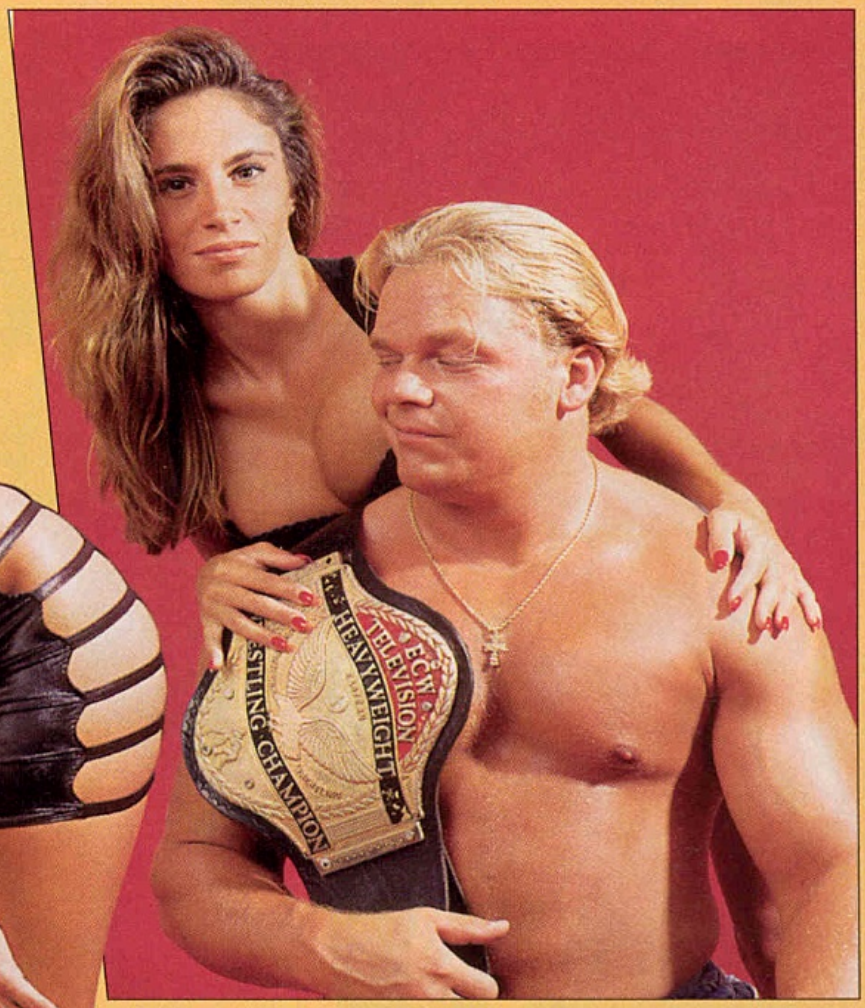
What it's like to be Beulah: One night you're getting piledriven by a Dreamer, but soon he's your boyfriend. Rey Misterio Jr. will unmask to impress you, but all you really want is some free time to curl up with a good book.

ESTLING
LMANAC

FRANCINE

Is there any woman in ECW more evil than Francine? Those tight, revealing black outfits... the thirst for violence. She gives all she can for Shane Douglas...and takes just as much from his enemies.

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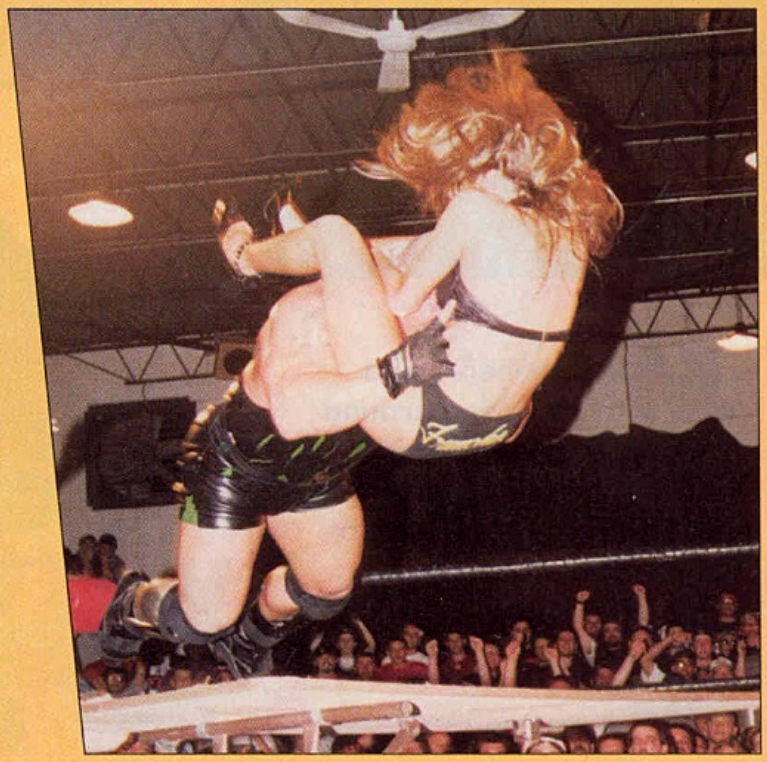
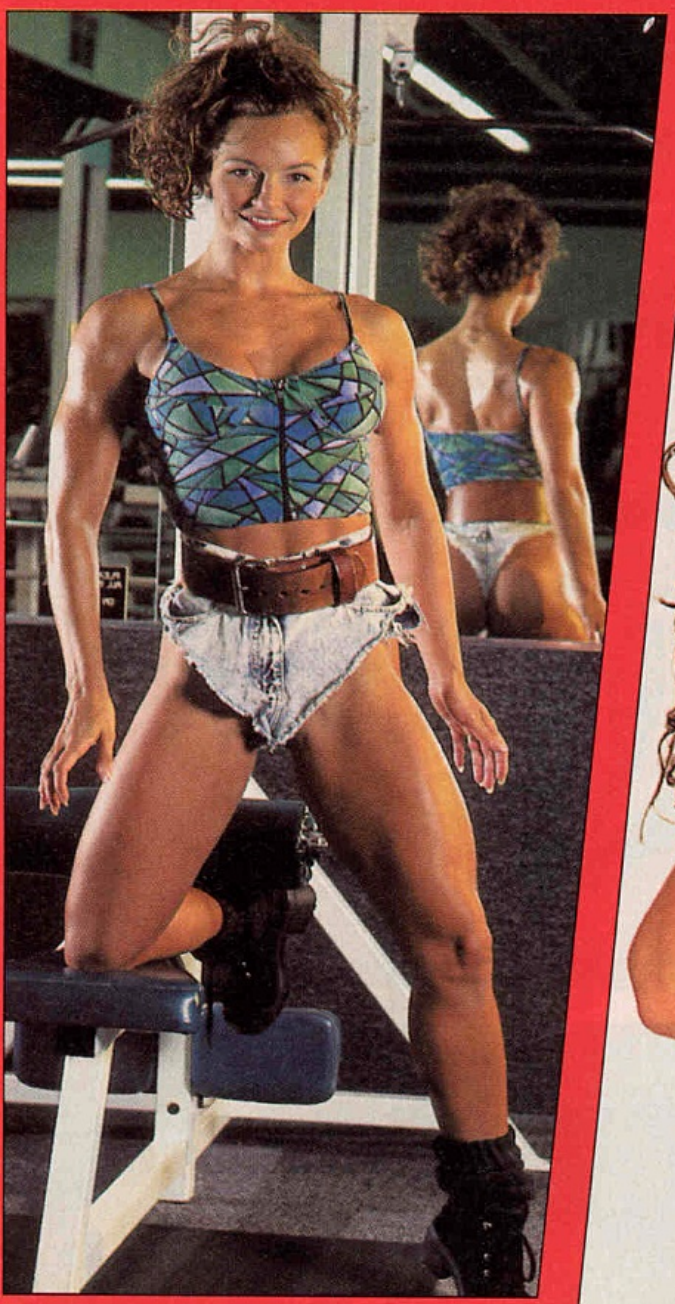


KIMBERLY



Mild-mannered and meek in and around the ring, Kimberly's a tiger when it comes to working out. The "Diamond" part of her is ancient history, but in the eyes of many, she'll always be a doll.

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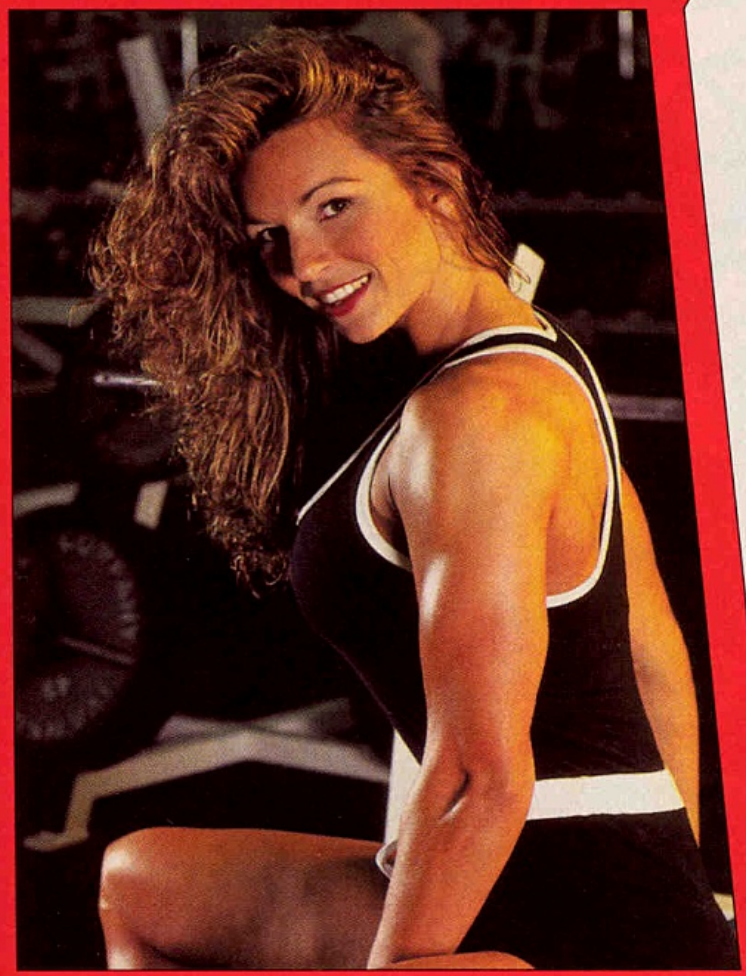
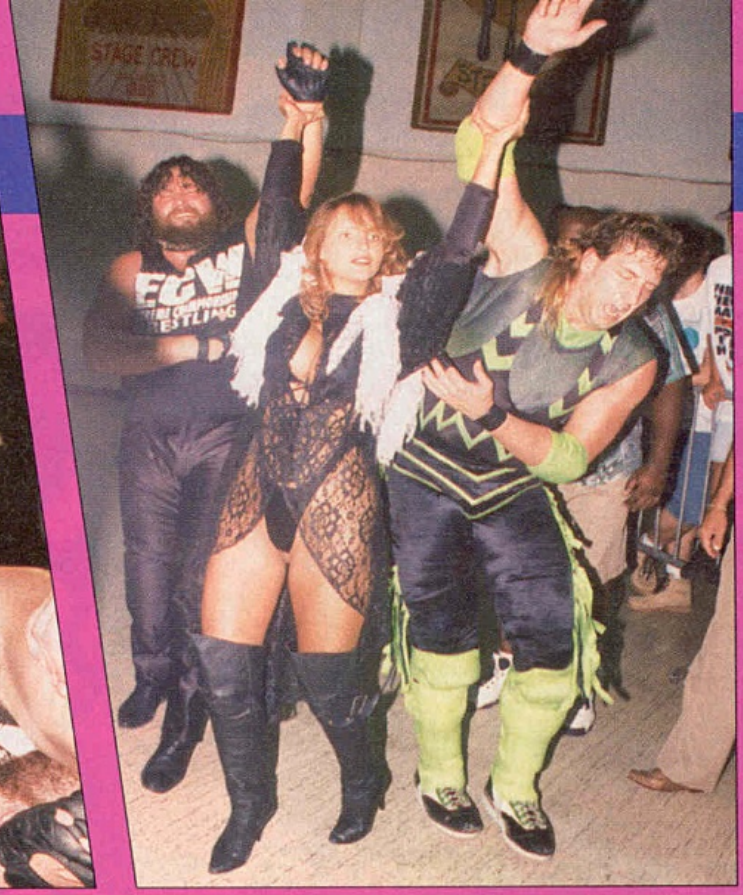


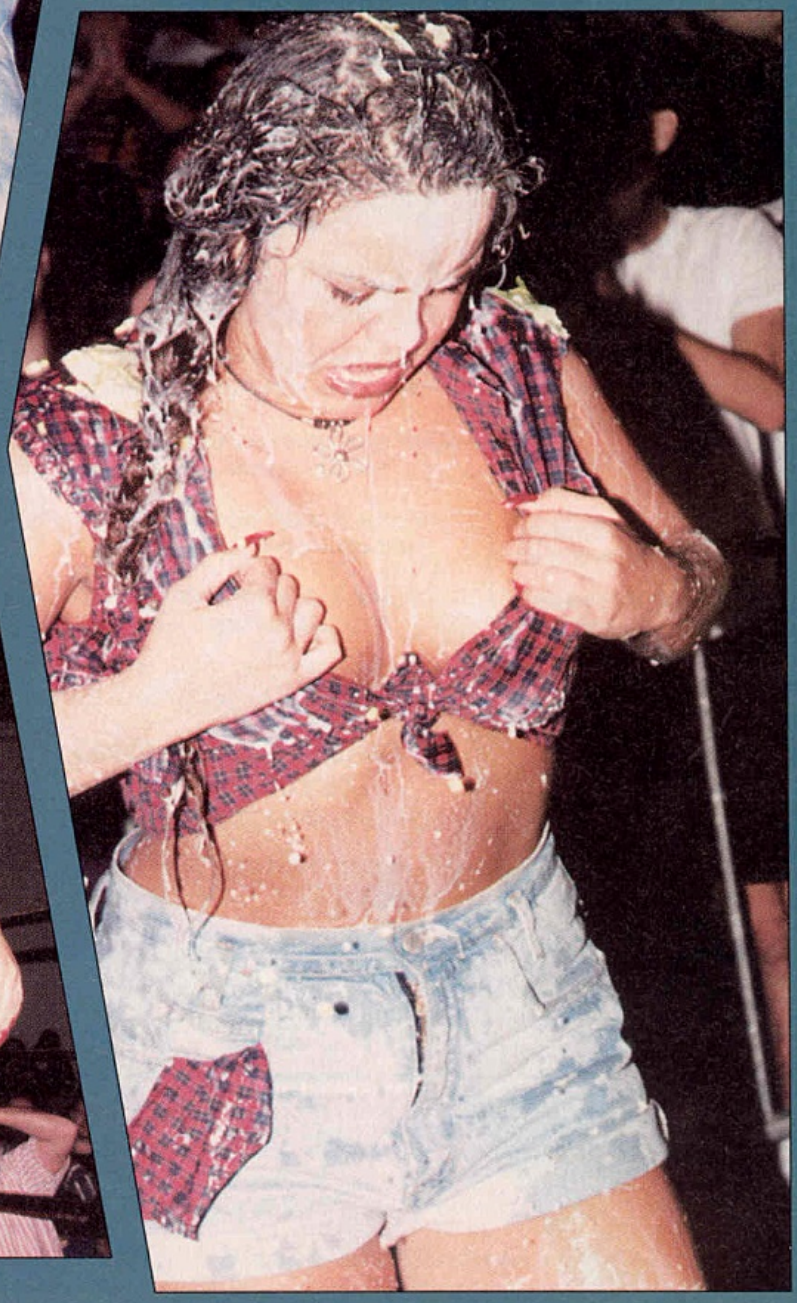
LADY ALEXANDRA

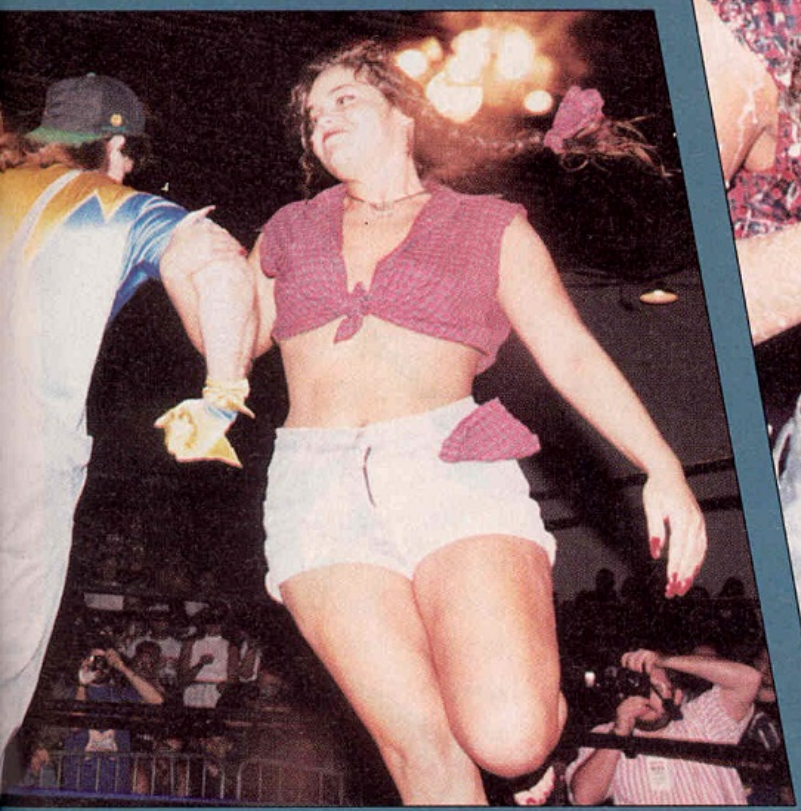
You can take Alexandra out of ECW, but you can't take the Lady out of … Well, the point is Alexandra can be a lady, nurturing and protective of her man Damian, she can be can get right into the action, or she can serve as one of the game's great distractions.



Miss Patricia

Hey, Patricia, you look good in a dress, great in fur, silly as The Meanie Babe, out of place as a dancing hillbilly, and positively hideous in slop.





DEBRA McMICHAEL

She doesn't talk a lot, rarely interferes, and doesn't seem all that nasty, but some way, somehow, she just seems to fit perfectly in The Four Horsemen.

BACK ISSUES OF THE Wrestler

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July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.

February 1990/Stories include: Sting-Luger, Gordy, Martel, Hogan-Brown.

April 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Woman, Piper-Heenan, Travis.

June 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Rockers, Koloffs, Horsemen, Flair-Luger.

July 1990/Stories include: Poffo, Dusty-Savage, Luger-Flair, Doom, Blanchard.

September 1990/Stories include: Ultimate, Haynes, Luger, Doom, Tugboat.

October 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Earthquake, Ultimate, Flair, Rich.

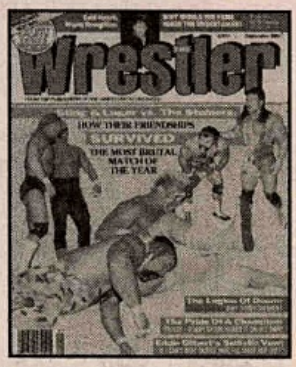
November 1990/Stories include: Luger & Sting, Beefcake, Race, Steiners.

May 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Slaughter, Flair, Eaton, Sheik-Bobo.

June 1991/Stories include: Hogan, Nastys, Sting, Flair, Cactus Jack.

July 1991/Stories include: Flair-Fujinami, Nastys, Steiners, Savage.

August 1991/Stories include: Slaughter, Luger-Nikita, Hennig, Poffo.



September 1991/Stories include: Steiners vs. Sting & Luger, LOD, Cactus.

November 1991/Stories include: Luger, Steamboat, Piper, Global.

January 1992/Stories include: LOD, Badd, Hughes, Roberts, Gossett.

February 1992/Stories include: Flair, Simmons, Santana, Backlund.

May 1992/Stories include: Flair, Anderson & Eaton, Piper, Rhodes, USWA.

June 1992/Stories include: Flair-Hogan-Justice, Gilbert, Warrior, Vegas.

August 1992/Stories include: Warrior, Bunkhouse, Undertaker-Roberts, Sting.

October 1992/Stories include: Bulldog & Warrior, Lee, Martel-Tatanka, Austin.

November 1992/Stories include: Crush, Reed, Hennig, Sting, Rogers.

April 1993/Stories include: What's in/out, Ramon, Steamboat, Patriot, Tatanka.

June 1993/Stories include: Sting-Vader, Doink & Christopher, Steiners, Lawler.

July 1993/Stories include: Smith-Vader, Ramon, Rhodes, Tatanka, Bravo murder.

November 1993/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Hogan, Luger, Jannetty, Bodies.

December 1993/Stories include: Luger, Sting & Flair, Fytch, Luna, Austin.

January 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Rude-Flair, Bagwell & Scorpio, Cornette.

February 1994/Stories include: Vicious & Arn, Yokozuna, Vader-Cactus, steroids.

April 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Savage-Crush, Flair, Blayze, Adams, Boss.

May 1994/Stories include: Royal Rumble, Hulk minus bulk, Boss, Douglas-Sherri.

July 1994/Stories include: Flair-Hogan, DiBiase, Crockett, Douglas, WWF.

August 1994/Stories include: Cactus-Vader, MOM, Hart & Yokozuna, Badd.

October 1994/Stories include: Undertaker, Cactus, Scorpio-Sabu, Funk, Sheik.

November 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Owen, Bret, Badd, Lawler.

December 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Vicious, Austin, Bomb.

January 1995/Stories include: Holiday gifts, DiBiase, Badd, Backlund, PG-13.

February 1995/Stories include: Hogan, Steiners, Undertaker, Sabu, Honky Tonk.

April 1995/Stories include: Harlem Heat, Lawler-Cornette, Beefcake, What If...?

May 1995/Stories include: Sting-Savage, Jarrett, Flair, Douglas-Blanchard.

July 1995/Stories include: Hogan, Jannetty, Pillman, LT, Dundee.

August 1995/Stories include: Diesel, LT, Hogan, powerful people, Gargoyle.

October 1995/Stories include: Backlund, Steiners, Austin & Pillman, Miss Texas.

November 1995/Stories include: Flair-Savage, Mabel, Jarrett-Ramon, Renegade.

Winter 1995/Stories include: Sting-Hogan, Steiners, Yankem, Bodies, Arn.

January 1996/Stories include: Hogan, Douglas, anniversary review of 30 years.

February 1996/Stories include: Hart, Luger, WCW, Cactus, Horowitz.

THE WRESTLER

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THE GIRLS OF WRESTLING

WHAT MAKES A woman as evil to her heinous core as Kimona Wana-Laya so ironically attractive?

How can a beauty like Sunny be such a beast to the fans ... and to the career of the men who have placed themselves in her custody?

Why would a porcelain beauty like Elizabeth don black leather and cast her luscious lot with other femme fatales like Woman and Debra McMichael?

We don't pretend to have all the answers, but let's face it: Sometimes it's a lot of fun to consider the questions. And that's what we've done in this special section ... in a very special way.

We're not giving you the usual mini-biographical material on each wily womanly wonder in the sport today. We're doing more: We're ranking them (and sometimes ranking *on* them), classifying them, and fearlessly pointing out their best features.

We're also giving you a look at what these ladies (well, some of them are still ladies!) are like away from the ring. What was their best subject in high school? What's their favorite sport? What book have they read most recently?

Then we polled the women themselves to find out what *they* think about themselves, and why they feel they are the most important woman in the sport today.

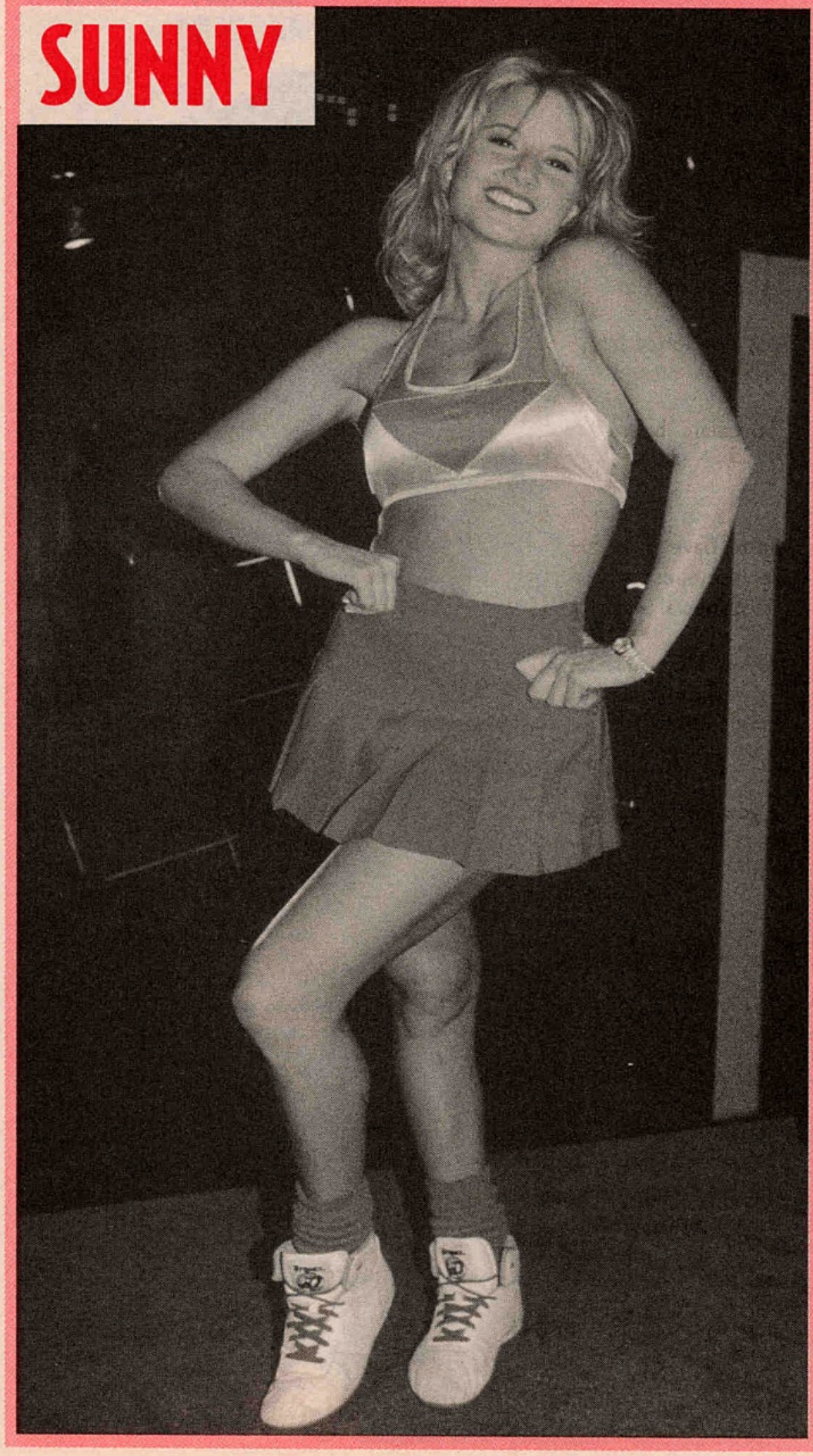
Then we went one step further.

We contacted Merrill Lynmon Roe, a famous Hollywood star-watcher, to assess each woman's qualities in any way his unique mind decided to do so. This is no Mr. Blackwell assessment of clothing, though: Merrill has been a fan of the sport for years, and knows his stuff!

So without further ado ... let's get to it!

YOU KNOW HER AS:

SUNNY



ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 9 (gorgeous, sure, but there's always that undercurrent of mistrust there!)

HER BEST FEATURE IS: that incredibly disarming smile

HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: to flash those award-winning buns of hers; hey, it helped her win championship gold!

HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: business, politics, women's rights

HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: ice hockey

HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: political science

THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *Superself* by Charles J. Givens

WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: "Sure, pal, but what are *you* gonna do for *me*?

MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: Buns of Steel

IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: Heather Locklear's character, Amanda Woodward, on *Melrose Place*

HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "Oh, please! It is so obvious why I am the most important woman in the sport today! Just look around you! All the fans want to know about Sunny! All the wrestlers want to be managed by Sunny! Every woman wants to look like me, and every man wants to be next to me. My picture is hanging on the walls of millions of bedrooms worldwide! I'm the most desired woman in the public eye today! And you know what? I have brains and ambition, too! And that's a winning combination in anybody's book!"

AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "You have to hand it to Sunny, she's certainly able to make the best of any situation. Who is she allied with today? Well, which way is the wind blowing? Yes, she's flighty, but look where it's gotten her: to the very top of a sport that's notorious for taking women and discarding them in a matter of weeks. She has staying power. She has brains. She has looks. All taken together, it's a very powerful combination."

YOU KNOW HER AS:

KIMBERLY

ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 10 (gorgeous, great attitude, and in perfect shape!)

HER BEST FEATURE IS: her killer fitness-physique

HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: just standing there!

HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: aerobic competition

HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: jogging

HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: physical education

THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *The Zone* by Barry Sears

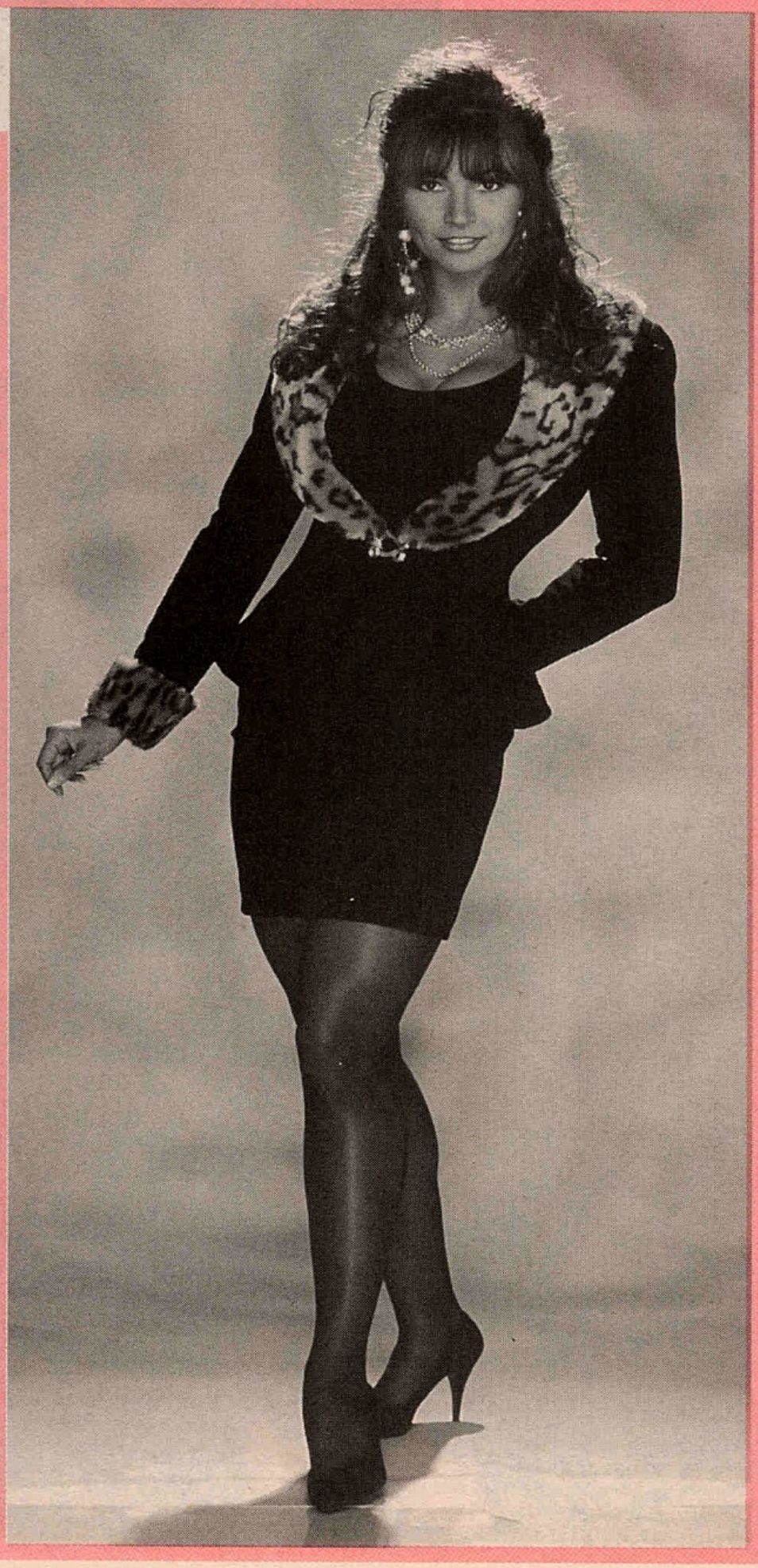
WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: "Get lost and get a life!"

MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: Spandex

IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: host of an ESPN fitness show

HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "It's funny that you ask me that question that way, because I really *don't* feel like I'm the most important woman in the sport. I'm just out there, night after night, doing the job that I know I have to do, doing the best that I possibly can. If those qualities make me important, then wonderful. But I have no agenda beyond just being the best I can possibly be."

AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "Oh, my goodness, is this a luscious long drink of water that you would just *love* to bring home to Mom? She has that Ivory soap scrubbed look, that pure sense of physical fitness, a smile and a pair of eyes that would make Sandra Bullock envious. You know, it's hard to tell sometimes if she's so wonderful because she *is* so wonderful, or only because she's in a sport where female slime predominates."



YOU KNOW HER AS:

SABLE

ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 9 (we'd like to see how she dresses when she goes to church with Marc)

HER BEST FEATURE IS: everything on the other side of her skin-tight shiny black leather wardrobe

HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: showing off her skin-tight shiny black leather wardrobe

HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: boxing, physical fitness

HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: boxing

HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: English

THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *In The Grip Of Grace* by Max Lucado

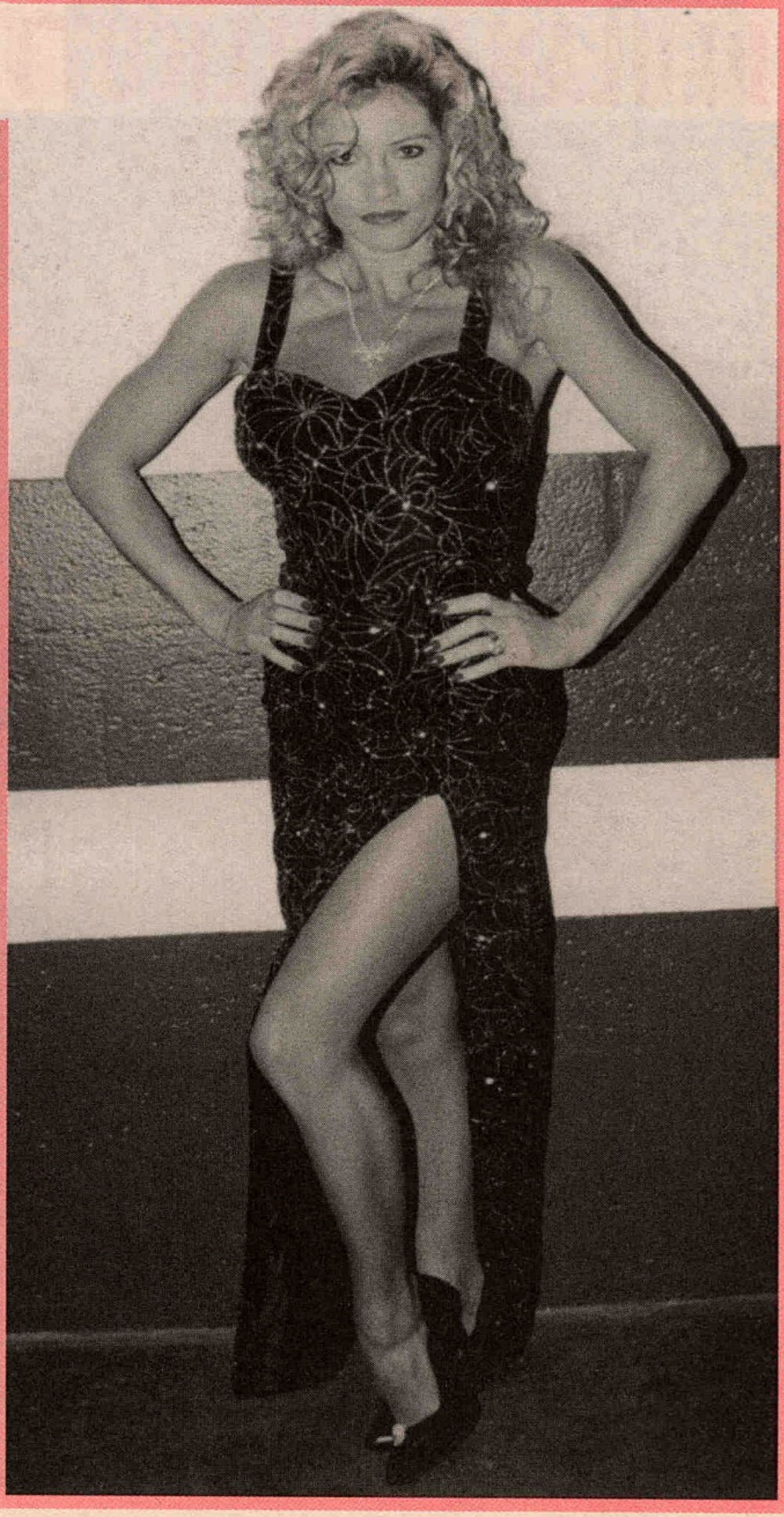
WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: to kick him in his epaulets

MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: any shampoo company

IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: Aeon Flux on MTV

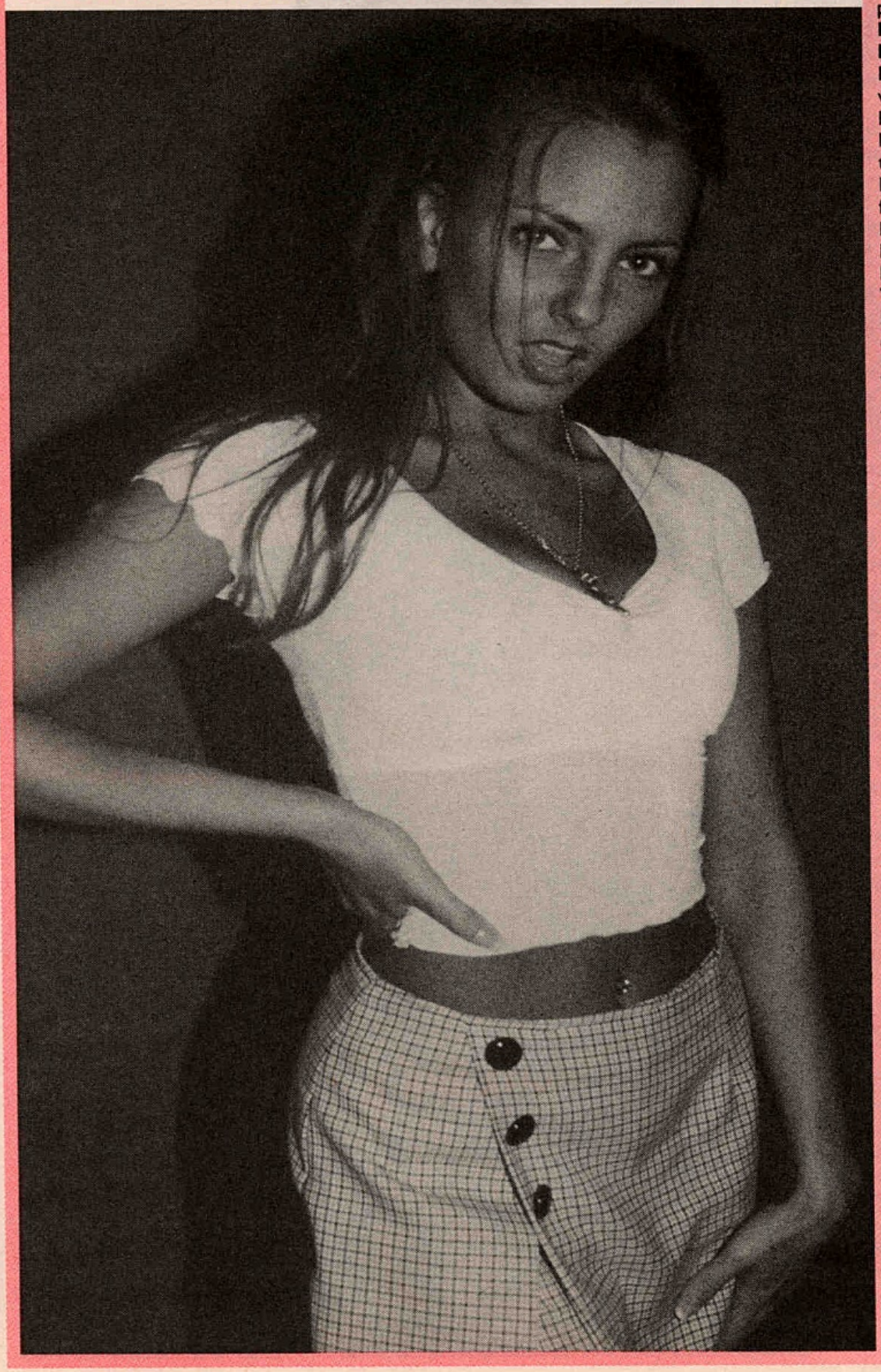
HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "I am the future of what the World Wrestling Federation is all about, it's that simple. I may not be ruling the federation now, or tomorrow, but it will happen soon. Very soon. And with Mark by my side, there's a plan in place that will have fans everywhere wondering why they didn't notice us sooner. Watch us: We're on the move!"

AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "She's lovely, to be sure, and she certainly knows how to show off her—*ahem*—assets. But really, does anyone else hear that noise? Hello?! Yes, I do believe it's something rattling in between those ears. Or maybe it's the wind whistling. Because if Sable has any real level of expertise or strategic knowledge about the sport, I certainly haven't seen it yet!"



YOU KNOW HER AS:

BEULAH McGILLICUTTY



ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 8 (though if she glosses herself up elegant, she gets a 9)

HER BEST FEATURE IS: her piercing eyes

HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: usually dependent on what her wardrobe happens to be that night

HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: travel, in-line skating

HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: football

HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: social studies

THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus* by John Gray

WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: to ask where the rest of the fleet happens to be

MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: mascara or contact lenses

IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: Rachel on *Friends*

HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "I don't think I am the most important woman in the sport, I *know* I am the most important woman in the sport. Quite simply, because I am the most important woman in ECW, and ECW is the most important federation in the world today. So, it only makes sense: best in ECW, best in the world. Is there anyone who can argue with that? I don't think so."

AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "The first time I heard the name, I thought 'frumpy,' more Laverne and Shirley than anything else; particularly Laverne. But goodness, gracious, you must see her in person to appreciate the beauty that is Beulah! And, to be sure, the subtle ways she utilizes her charms at ringside. And make no mistake: There *is* subtlety there. You just have to pay close attention to find it. And I agree with the staff on this one: Her eyes are indeed spectacular."

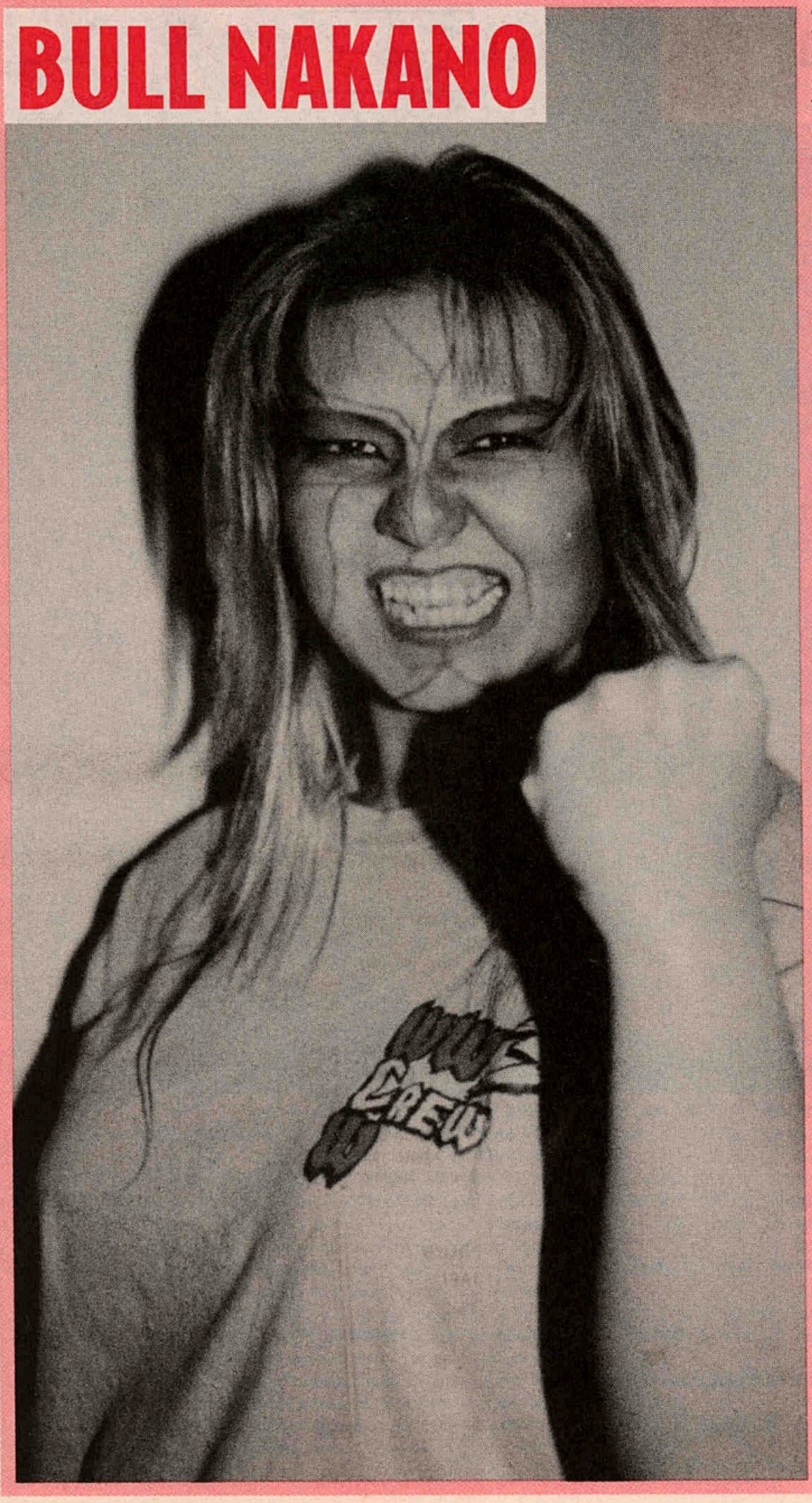
YOU KNOW HER AS:

ELIZABETH

ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 8 (it's hard to distinguish photos of her taken in 1986 from those taken in 1996!)
HER BEST FEATURE IS: her crystal-clear complexion
HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: really not that good; her presence there is mainly a form of moral support
HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: shopping
HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: spending Randy Savage's money
HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: home economics
THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: the Spiegel catalogue
WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: *"Ahhhhhh!"*
MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: Ivory soap
IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: a *Price Is Right* girl
HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "It's important in this sport to place all things in perspective. Look at Ric Flair, for example. He is a perfect example of how experience rules. And I have more experience than just about any woman in the sport today. Championship experience. And knowledge. And the wisdom to use that experience and knowledge properly. Don't believe me? Just ask Randy! Tee hee!"
AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "One thing I am glad about the way the press has covered Elizabeth over the years is in the way *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* has recognized Elizabeth's savvy. She is more than a pretty face. And she *is* a pretty face. She possesses a strategic knowledge of the sport that is often overlooked because of her looks. She doesn't do much at ringside, but she's watching closely; then, in strategy sessions later, you can bet she has plenty to say."

YOU KNOW HER AS:

BULL NAKANO



ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 1 (we have no provisions for a zero)

HER BEST FEATURE IS: to be found in her makeup kit (and isn't *that* a fright?!)

HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: just *being* there

HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: fixing cars, doing cement work

HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: sumo wrestling

HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: shaking down kids for lunch money

THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *Shogun* by James Clavell

WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: "Oh, yeah?" followed by a hiptoss and a legdrop combination

MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: ultra-violent videogames like Virtual Fighter and Mortal Kombat

IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: That hideous secretary, Mimi, that perpetually tortures Drew Carey in his cubicle!

HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "It is quite simple. I may not be seen as the most beautiful woman in the world, although I am very beautiful in my own way; there are many men who can attest to that. But I am undeniably viewed as the most feared woman in the world today. And that is something of which I am very, very proud."

AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "Darling, are you kidding me? What a nightmare! This is the kind of look that goes down well on some of your more bizarre Generation X fashion runways, but give me a break! She's a walking cartoon character! How can anyone look at Nakano and see anything more than a brutal machine of torture? There may be a woman inside all of what's there, but I'm not the guy who's gonna go looking for it!"

AVAILABLE NOW!

A VERY SPECIAL SELECTION OF PREMIUM BACK ISSUES!

Over the past few years, these special issues of *The Wrestler* and *Inside Wrestling* have become coveted by collectors the world over. Now, in limited quantities, they are available to you for the low price of just $5 each! Be sure to complete your collection today!

JUNE 1995 APRIL 1996

MARCH 1993 *WRESTLER* features a full-color 12-page section, "1992: The Year In Pictures," that details all the most important events, both in and out of the ring, of that remarkable year in the mat sport.

MARCH 1994 *WRESTLER* features the full-color 12-page section, "1993: The Year In Pictures," detailing all the most important happenings, both in and out of the ring, of those notable 12 months in the mat sport.

JUNE 1994 *WRESTLER* is an 88-page spectacular featuring 20 pages of "The stuff all fans should know"—the best wrestling quiz ever! What's your wrestling IQ? Find out with this issue! Features four full-color pinups!

SEPTEMBER 1994 *WRESTLER* packs 88 pages of excitement into one big package—including the lively and candid "WWF Midyear Report," a comprehensive review of the WWF through the first half of the year! Includes four color pinups!

WINTER 1994 *WRESTLER* includes the must-read bonus section, "Wrestling From A To Z"—an alphabetical array of wrestling trends and turmoil! Four full-color pinups complete this sensational 88-page package!

MARCH 1995 *WRESTLER* looks back at 1994 with a spectacular 23-page section, "1994: The Year In Pictures," that includes four color pages highlighting the most important events of the year.

JUNE 1995 *WRESTLER* is 88-pages full of information, including an 18-page "Book Of Lists" section featuring the hottest lists in wrestling and full-color pages of Jeff Jarrett, Hulk Hogan, Sid Vicious, and Sabu.

DECEMBER 1995 *WRESTLER* lays down the law in a special 20-page rulebook developed by the editors. This section includes four color pinups depicting flagrant rules violations.

MARCH 1996 *WRESTLER* is an 88-page edition including the most memorable, the violent, and bizarre moments from 1995 in a special "Year In Pictures" section, with four full-color pages featuring major issue from the year.

JANUARY 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING* offers the most extensive coverage of SummerSlam '93 and Fall Brawl anywhere: seven pages of analysis plus two pages of full-color highlights from each card!

APRIL 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING* includes the first-ever Inside Wrestling computer tournament! You won't believe who wins—or how! This 88-page issue's four-page color section includes an action centerfold—from the tournament?!

JULY 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING* includes 21 pages of one-of-a-kind prognostications as Inside Wrestling looks into the sport's future and reports back to you! Coverage in this 88-page issue includes a four-page pinup section!

OCTOBER 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING* presents the bold and brassy "WCW Midyear Report," a 15-page overview of the first half of 1994. Four full-color pinups fill out this 88-page special edition.

APRIL 1995 *INSIDE WRESTLING* features the second-annual Inside Wrestling Computer Tournament, including an action centerfold from the final match—is this for real?! Our computer seems to think so! You won't believe who wins!

JULY 1995 *INSIDE WRESTLING* is a power-packed 88-pager (including four color pinups) that included our popular "Wrestling Cool" section. Who's the coolest dude, babe, crippler, and daredevil? One thing all our readers agreed on: This issue was cool!

OCTOBER 1995 *INSIDE WRESTLING* reports on the state of affairs of World Championship Wrestling for the first half of 1995 in "WCW Midyear Report." We tell you how the stars fared among the turmoil in this special 88-page edition that includes four full-color pinups.

WINTER 1995 *INSIDE WRESTLING* gives you the birthdays of more than 180 of the hottest wrestlers in the sport today in a special pullout calendar and datebook. This book also features great historical information for each month!

APRIL 1996 *INSIDE WRESTLING* presents the third edition of the Inside Wrestling Computer Tournament, and the results just get more startling each year! The highlight of this annual 88-page special, as our readers have told us, is the computer-generated centerfold action shot from the tournament final.

JULY 1996 *INSIDE WRESTLING* takes you away from the wrestling ring and into the personal lives of wrestling's hottest stars. What makes Sunny cry? What's Sabu's favorite TV show? What's the dumbest thing Shawn Michaels has ever done? What scares Jim Cornette? What brings Sting down? This 88-pager includes color shots of Sting, Sunny, Sabu, and Michaels.

ONLY $5 EACH!

- ❒ MARCH 1993 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ MARCH 1994 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ JUNE 1994 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ SEPTEMBER 1994 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ WINTER 1994 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ MARCH 1995 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ JUNE 1995 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ DECEMBER 1995 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ MARCH 1996 *WRESTLER*
- ❒ JANUARY 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❒ APRIL 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❒ JULY 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❒ OCTOBER 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❒ APRIL 1995 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❒ JULY 1995 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❒ OCTOBER 1995 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❒ WINTER 1995 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❒ APRIL 1996 *INSIDE WRESTLING*

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LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

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4322/06-96

YOU KNOW HER AS:

DEBRA McMICHAEL

ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 8 (maybe a 16 if we add up her best assets)

HER BEST FEATURE IS: her top-heavy hourglass figure

HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: flaunting her top-heavy hourglass figure

HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: shopping for clothing and jewelry

HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: football

HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: cheerleading

THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *Simple Abundance* by Sarah Ban Breathnach

WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: "Oh, Mongo, would you come over here a moment and have a word with this gentleman?"

MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: Playtex

IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: Jennifer Marlowe on the old *WKRP In Cincinnati*

HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "Why? Because behind every successful man is a strong woman, you know? And Steve is the most successful new member of The Four Horsemen in what, 10 years? So it only stands to reason that if I am the woman behind the most successful man in the most successful group the sport has ever known, I an the most important woman in the sport! Simple, right? Right!"

AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "My goodness, her chest measurement is bigger than most men in the sport! But women don't get that big by pumping iron. That aside, I just think Debra is riding on ol' Mongo's coattails. Good for her; bad for us. She's easy on the eyes, you know, but that's about all she's got going for her."

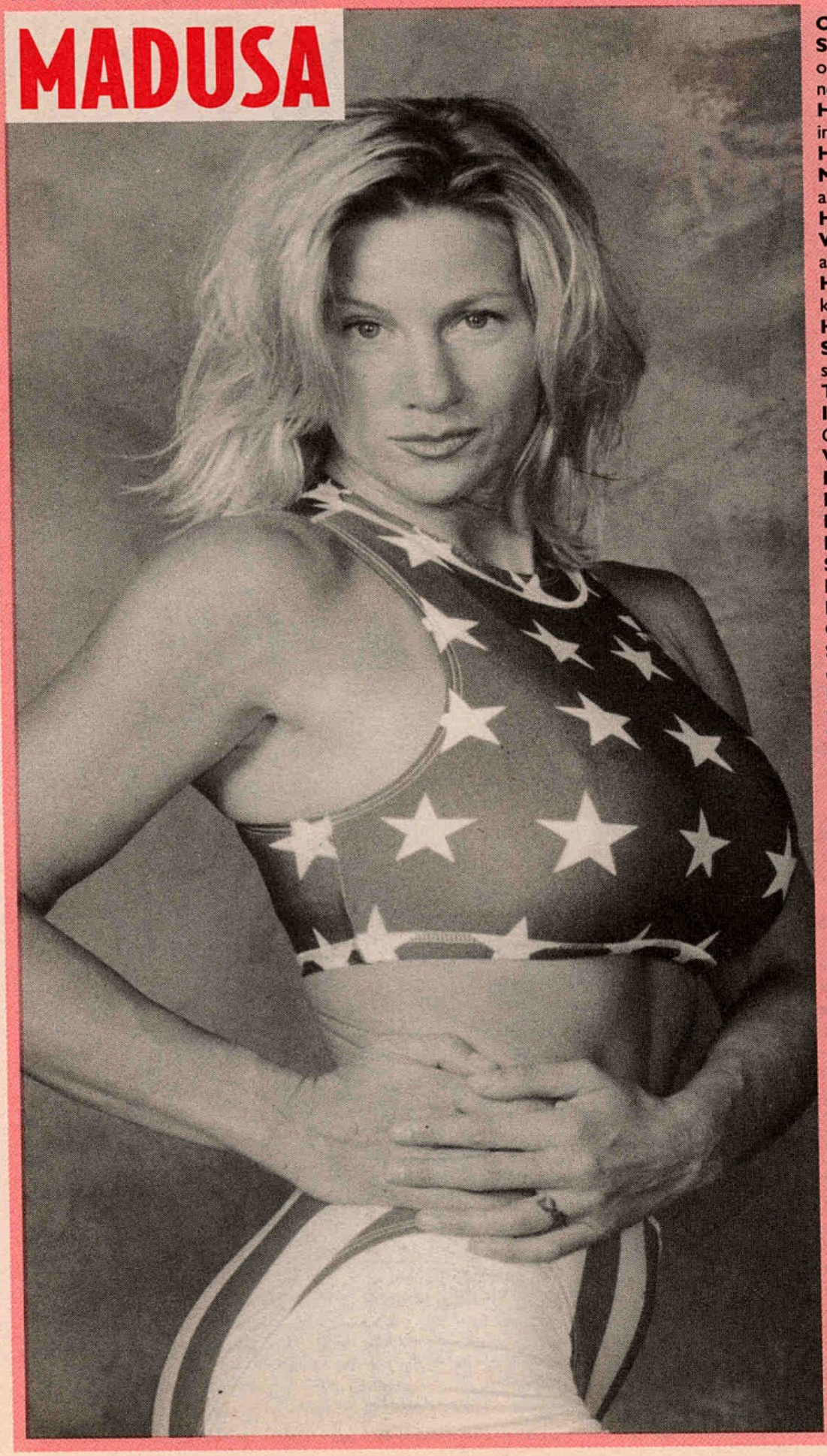
YOU KNOW HER AS:

LADY ALEXANDRA

ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 8 (any lower, she'd probably kick our butts!)
HER BEST FEATURE IS: her hair
HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: her wardrobe
HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: music, motorcycles, leather
HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: lacrosse
HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: cutting class
THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *Zen And The Art Of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert Pirsig
WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: "Sure, after you manage to find a dentist to replace all your teeth because of THIS!"
MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: Calvin Klein
IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: *Xena, Warrior Princess*
HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "I have nothing to say on this subject. Talent wins out, that's all. I know I'm the most important woman in the sport, anyone with half a brain who watches wrestling knows I'm the most important woman in the sport, and that's all I have to say about that. Anything else is just wasting my breath and my time."
AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "Darling, just look at her! The outfits! The attitude! She's perfect! And you know something? I suspect we haven't even begun to see the athletic skills she possesses. I would love to see her in the ring against, say, Madusa or someone of that caliber. I suspect Alexandra is harboring physical abilities that would prove she is certainly no lady!"

YOU KNOW HER AS:

MADUSA



ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 7 (add one if she's in her formal wear and not her ringwear)

HER BEST FEATURE IS: her intelligence

HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: a well-placed savate kick

HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: martial arts, acting, Japanese culture

HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: kick-boxing

HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: science

THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *How Stella Got Her Groove Back* by Terry McMillan

WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: a savate kick

MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: Sailor Moon products

IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: Roz, the engineer on *Frasier*

HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "I do hate to pat myself on the back in this way, but it is an important factor, and since you asked: I am one of the few women in the sport who wants to see the sport remain in the sport for women. I am not a ringside prop. I am an athlete, a competitor who can hold my own with any male wrestler in the sport today. I want honor and respect brought back to the sport."

AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "*Ahhh,* Madusa! She has such talents! I truly believe that the only reason she is not a martial arts film star, the female Jackie Chan, is because she has such devotion to the pro wrestling ring. She loves this sport, and it shows. And I honestly believe she is a lot more frustrated by women like Missy Hyatt and Kimona Wana-Laya than even she lets herself say publicly; she's too much a lady to say what she really thinks about them."

YOU KNOW HER AS:

MARLENA

ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 7 (talk about doing the least with what she's got!)
HER BEST FEATURE IS: her eyes
HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: blowing cigar smoke in someone's face
HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: classic films, premium cigars
HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: boxing, baseball, any sport highlighted in a movie
HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: film appreciation
THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *5001 Nights At The Movies* by Pauline Kael
WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: "Hey, buddy, this is NOT On The Town, and you are NOT Gene Kelly."
MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: Arturo Fuente double coronas
IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: nobody; she probably wouldn't allow herself to appear anywhere but on the movie screen
HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "In the multiplex that is the World Wrestling Federation, I am the main attraction. I am the director. The director calls the shots. The director blocks the action. The director knows the script … and the outcome. The outcome for everyone in the World Wrestling Federation is going to be servitude at the hands of World champion Goldust. Don't think so? Then you probably thought *Ishtar* would be a hit, too!"
AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "Marlena, Marlena, my goodness! She looks like one of those Academy Award statuettes … if you place it in front of a fun house mirror, that is! Good Lord! Where on earth did she find a place to buy that hideous wardrobe of hers? And far too trendy, at least in her own mind. Gracious, those cigars! What a stink! Not ladylike, not in the least. She's far too self-consciously attempting to be stylish."

YOU KNOW HER AS:

KIMONA WANA-LAYA

ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 7 (that's 5 for objective beauty, plus 2 for pure sex appeal)

HER BEST FEATURE IS: her pouty lips

HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: touching her toes

HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: unable to be printed in a family magazine, even in a special section such as this!

HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: cruising for men

HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: smoking in the girl's room

THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *The Cat In The Hat* by Dr. Seuss

WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: a ticket to the next ECW card with her phone number on the back

MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: the Snap-On Tools calendar

IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: someone in the backseat of HBO's *Taxicab Confessions*

HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "Why. Why ask why? Simply look. Look at the faces of the poor simpletons in the front row. Or the back row, for that matter. The drool on their chins. In this world of ours today, passion is power, desire is power, hunger is power. Men desire me. Hunger for me. Have passion for me. That is power. Power is importance. That is why I am the most important woman in the sport."

AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "Oh, puh-leeze! Where should I begin? The name? The non-expressions on her face? The non-outfits on her body? The non-existence of any wrestling knowledge or athletic skills? She is the personification of sleaze in professional wrestling, everything that is diametrically opposed to all that someone like, say, Madusa stands for. Sure, she's fun to look at for a few seconds, but after you put a dollar in her garter, there's nothing else there."

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

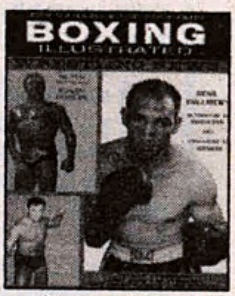
Wrestling historians, rejoice! Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than a decade—but a recent transfer of warehouse inventory from New York to Pennsylvania uncovered a small supply of these classic publications! Obviously, supplies are extremely limited, so all magazines will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis only. Prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the number of available copies. For speediest service, use VISA or MasterCard or make payment by money order or certified check. Please don't send cash! Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime chance to own a memorable piece of wrestling history! Once they're gone, they'll never be offered for sale again—so order today!

WRESTLING REVUE

Published between 1959 and 1964, *Wrestling Revue* is acknowledged as one of the finest series of wrestling magazines ever produced. These beautiful editions, all edited and published by Stanley Weston (founder of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated, The Wrestler,* and *Inside Wrestling,* among so many other titles) set a standard for all wrestling magazines that followed, and are available now for the first time in many years!

Fall 1961 Edouard Carpentier challenges Floyd Patterson, Bruiser vs. Cowboy Bob Ellis, The Zebra Kid, killer holds, action at The Kiel, Nick Bockwinkel vs. Dr. X, and full-color action of the Bastiens vs. Shires & Nelson. **$25**
December 1961 An extensive Buddy Rogers interview, Bobo Brazil, Fred Blassie, Pepper Gomez, the Torres brothers, Whipper Watson, "Sailor" Art Thomas, Ricki Starr, plus a full-color centerfold of Mark Lewin & Don Curtis. **$35**
February 1962 Dick Beyer, Mitsu Arakawa, Edouard Carpentier vs. Lou Thesz, Angelo Poffo, a five-girl battle royal, Don and Jackie Fargo, Billy Zabyszko, Larry Chene, plus a full-color centerfold of Guy & Joe Brunetti. **$30**
April 1962 Wilbur Snyder, Luis Martinez, Madison Square Garden closeup, Yulie Brynner, Billy Wolfe, Don Leo Jonathan vs. Pat O'Connor, closeup on midgets, plus a full-color centerfold of Bearcat Wright. **$30**
June 1962 Eddie Graham, Verne Gagne, wrestlers vs. boxers, Dory Dixon, Yukon Eric, Tony Lanza, Lorraine Johnson vs. Kay Noble, Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard, The Crusher, plus a full-color centerfold of Red Bastien. **$25**
December 1963 The Destroyer, "Maniac" Mark Lewin, Paul Diamond, Ernie Ladd, Judy Grable, Bill Watts, Pat O'Connor, Don Duffy, The Scufflin' Hillbillies, plus a full-color centerfold of Lou Thesz. **$35**
February 1964 Edouard Carpentier vs. Killer Kowalski, Florida wrestling, Mad Dog Vachon, Fabulous Moolah, Fritz Von Erich, Rene Goulet, Cyclops, plus a full-color centerfold of Bruno Sammartino. **$35**

BOXING ILLUSTRATED/ WRESTLING NEWS



In November 1958, Stanley Weston launched *Boxing Illustrated/Wrestling News,* an innovative concept in sports magazines. Each issue's content consisted of approximately 60 percent boxing and 40 percent wrestling, resulting in the most complete magazine for ring afficianados the world has ever known.

May 1959 ***Boxing:*** Ray Robinson, James Jeffries, Rube Vargas, Willie Pep, Joey Maxim, Denny Moyer. ***Wrestling:*** Gene Stanlee, Larry Hamilton, Happy Humphrey, "Cowboy" Bob Ellis. **$25**
June 1959 ***Boxing:*** Gene Fullmer, Jack Britton, Gustav Scholz, Mauro Vazquez, Rocky Graziano. ***Wrestling:*** Buddy Rogers, Don Leo Jonathan, Hard Boiled Haggerty, Omaya Kato. **$35**
September 1959 ***Boxing:*** Carmen Basilio, the perfect kayo, Tiger Flowers, Joe Brown, Paolo Rosi. ***Wrestling:*** Edouard Carpentier, Ricki Starr, Enrique Torres. **$25**
October 1962 ***Boxing:*** Special edition previewing the Floyd Patterson vs. Sonny Liston bout! ***Wrestling:*** "Handsome" Johnny Barend, Andre Drapp, "Sailor" Art Thomas, five pages of results. **$30**
October 1963 ***Boxing:*** Cassius Clay, Joe Lynch, Frankie Narvaez, Tommy Loughran. ***Wrestling:*** Crusher vs. Verne Gagne, Tony Manous, The Dirty Daltons, results. **$25**
February 1964 ***Boxing:*** Sonny Liston, Joey Archer, 1963 in review, Cassius Clay. ***Wrestling:*** Bruno Sammartino vs. Gorilla Monsoon, Emile Dupre, Bruiser vs. Bob Ellis, results. **$30**

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- ☐ Fall 1961
- ☐ December 1961
- ☐ February 1962
- ☐ April 1962
- ☐ June 1962
- ☐ December 1963
- ☐ February 1964

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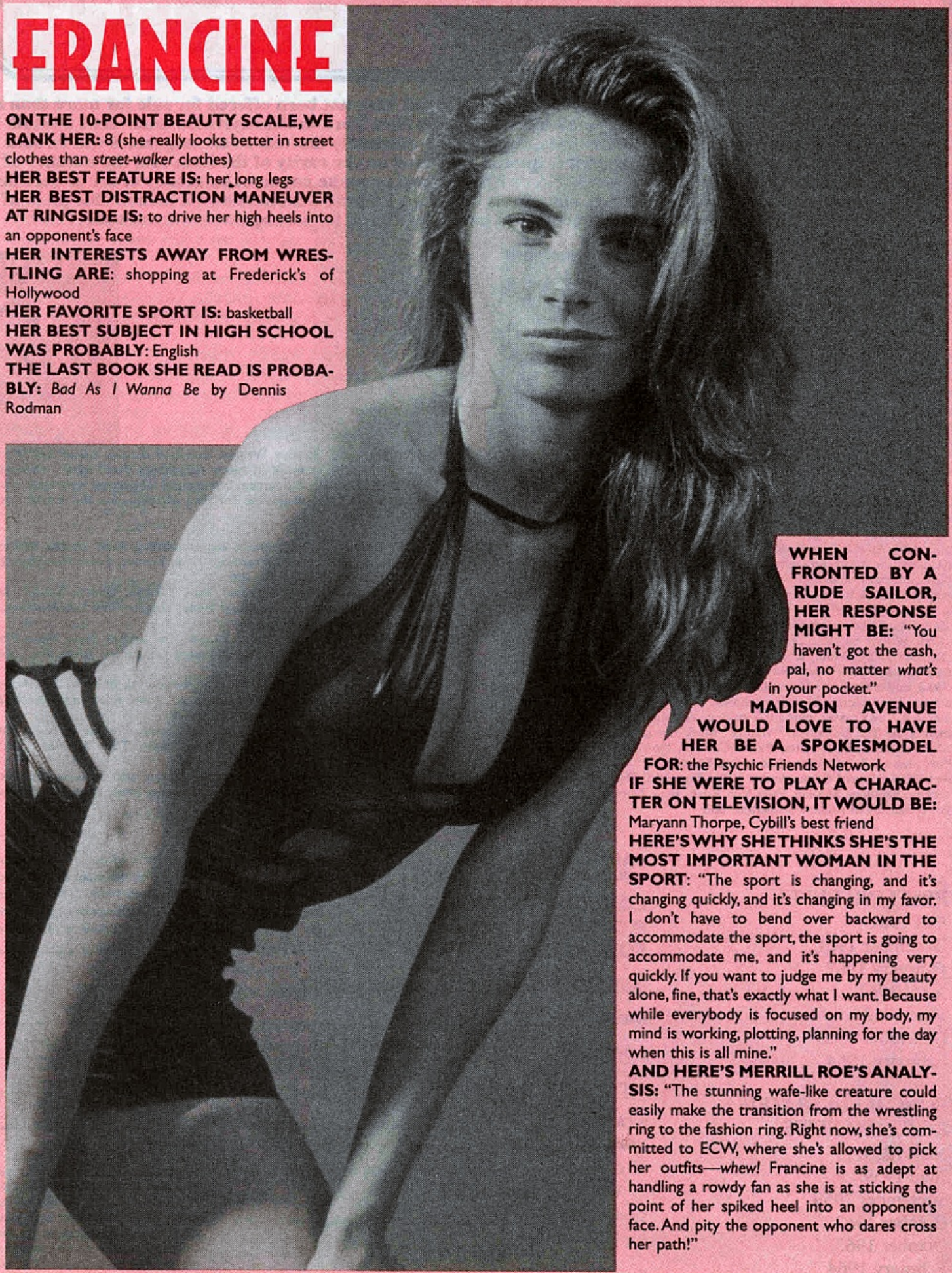
YOU KNOW HER AS:

FRANCINE

ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 8 (she really looks better in street clothes than *street-walker* clothes)
HER BEST FEATURE IS: her long legs
HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: to drive her high heels into an opponent's face
HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: shopping at Frederick's of Hollywood
HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: basketball
HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS PROBABLY: English
THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *Bad As I Wanna Be* by Dennis Rodman



WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: "You haven't got the cash, pal, no matter *what's* in your pocket."
MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: the Psychic Friends Network
IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: Maryann Thorpe, Cybill's best friend
HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "The sport is changing, and it's changing quickly, and it's changing in my favor. I don't have to bend over backward to accommodate the sport, the sport is going to accommodate me, and it's happening very quickly. If you want to judge me by my beauty alone, fine, that's exactly what I want. Because while everybody is focused on my body, my mind is working, plotting, planning for the day when this is all mine."
AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "The stunning wafe-like creature could easily make the transition from the wrestling ring to the fashion ring. Right now, she's committed to ECW, where she's allowed to pick her outfits—*whew!* Francine is as adept at handling a rowdy fan as she is at sticking the point of her spiked heel into an opponent's face. And pity the opponent who dares cross her path!"

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2541	Alice in Chains
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2527	B-52s
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2276	Barenaked Ladies
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2382	Better Than Ezra
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4361	Billy Idol
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3265	Danzig
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2353	Del Amitri
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4651	Hole
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YOU KNOW HER AS:

LORI FULLINGTON

ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 6 (hey, come on: that's not at all bad for a mother and a career woman!)

HER BEST FEATURE IS: her hair

HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: to bring her son there to speak up

HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: parenting, schooling

HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: soccer, Little League

HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: debate

THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *Emotional Intelligence* by Daniel Goleman

WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: "You have the nerve to say that in front of the boy?!?"

MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: M.A.D.D.

IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: Grace, from *Grace Under Fire*

HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "Because, very simply, I am trying to rein in the extreme in Extreme Championship Wrestling. Everyone in the sport, unfortunately, wants more, more, more. More blood. More sex. More violence. Hey: I'm not saying I'm perfect, and I'm certainly no Tipper Gore, but somebody's gotta stand up and say 'Enough!' That is what I am doing, I am saying 'Enough!' Unfortunately, I'm saying it to my husband; worse, so is his son. Maybe he'll listen eventually, though."

AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "I have to admire Lori's spunk, don't you? She is delivering a totally different dimension to the sport, the parental dimension, something we haven't seen since Ric Flair almost got killed at the hands of Big Van Vader. But I honestly have to question her judgment. While it's in her son's best interests to have his father sober up, I am not so sure it's in his best interests to be so directly involved at ringside. Does the end justify the means? Not always, Lori! Remember that, sweetie!"

YOU KNOW HER AS:

WOMAN

ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 8 (she still has it, and everyone still wants it)
HER BEST FEATURE IS: her eyes
HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: the verbiage she screams into the ring
HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: philosophy, fine dining
HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: baseball
HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: literature
THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *Midnight In The Garden Of Good And Evil* by John Berendt
WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: "Don't you wish!"
MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: Revlon eye care
IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: Joan Collins' character, Alexis Carrington, on *Dynasty*
HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "Because, very simply, I am Woman. There isn't anyone who has followed the sport for more than a day that doesn't know of my abilities, my history, my influence, and my strategic knowledge. I know the art of psychological warfare as well as anyone alive, and I use it, and I am proud to flaunt it. Because I have nothing to fear. Those who have something to fear are those who stray too close to my web of power and influence!"
AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "Let's give Woman her due: She remains a superb practitioner of the psychological edge. Never underestimate her. Never. She is so sure of herself, so confident in her beauty, that she is not afraid to be seen in the constant company of two other gorgeous women. The way she carries herself, she seems to know that all eyes are on her and her alone."

YOU KNOW HER AS:

MISS TEXAS

ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 7 (and you know, she *was* on the cover of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated!*)
HER BEST FEATURE IS: her chest
HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: a quick swipe of her right arm
HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: music, movies, romance novels
HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: basketball
HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: gym
THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *Morning, Noon & Night* by Sidney Shelton
WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: "You talkin' to ME?"
MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: Calvin Klein jeans
IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: Rhonda Blair, Vanessa Williams' role on the early *Melrose Place*
HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "I am a woman on the move. Momentum is everything in sports. The Chicago Bulls have momentum, there's nobody can beat them on the hardwood. Same deal. When *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* was looking for four women to put on their cover, did they choose Missy? Did they choose Elizabeth? Did they pick any of those ECW bimbos? They picked yours truly. And you *know* they don't put trash on the cover ... 'cept for those three other girls, they don't!"
AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "Miss Texas is a wild card in the game of professional wrestling. She is far more self-important than she has any right to be; then again, she's a small fish in a small pond, and that makes for a big scene, relatively speaking. It remains to be seen whether she could withstand the pace of action in the WWF or in WCW. But with the proliferation of women in both federations, I'm surprised she hasn't been tapped for duty; after all, she does have a good deal of experience."

YOU KNOW HER AS:

MISSY HYATT

ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 7 (Missy, Missy, you couldn't expect to remain 25 forever)
HER BEST FEATURE IS: her deep blue eyes (contrary to conventional belief)
HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: to claw her man's opponent with her sharp nails … or shriek at him with her sharper voice
HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: bar-hopping, shopping, spending money
HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: hockey
HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: detention
THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *10 Stupid Things Women Do To Mess Up Their Lives* by Dr. Laura Schlessinger
WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: "What's in it for ME?"
MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: Guess? Jeans
IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: host of *USA's Up All Night*
HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "Everywhere I go, men continue to throw themselves at me. Everywhere I go, championship gold follows. I have been in this sport for more years than all these other ECW bimbos combined, and I know what makes a success and what makes a failure. Longevity is what makes a success. Let's see where some of these girls are five years down the road, much less 10 years. I was here before they came, and I'll be here long after they're gone. Trash gets thrown away; Missy Hyatt endures!"
AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "Missy Hyatt's beauty is actually better appreciated when you're right up next to her and aren't distracted by her body. Her face is exquisite, particularly when she's in a good mood and she's smiling. Her teeth sparkle and her deep blue eyes actually glimmer. I hope she finds happiness in her life, because when she's miserable, she's not even very pleasant to look at."

YOU KNOW HER AS:

PATRICIA

ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 7 (hey, she did hang out with The Blue Meanie, you know!)

HER BEST FEATURE IS: her silky smooth skin

HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: snapping her gum and screaming into the ring in that "Bvooklyn" accent of hers!

HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: talk shows, soaps, the Home Shopping Network

HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: roller skating

HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: home room

THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *Enter Whining* by Fran Dresher

WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: "Um, well, uh, maybe, I mean, uh, yeah! Sure!"

MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: chewing gum

IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: The Nanny

HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "Whaddya mean, why I *think* I'm the most important woman in the sport? You mean I'm not? I mean, why not? I think I am! Why doesn't everyone else think I am! Jeez! This is ridiculous! You guys are just putting me on, right? Everybody knows I'm the most important woman in the sport. Well, at least *I* know it, and that's what really counts. Isn't it? Yeah, it is."

AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "I really hate to use this phrase, darling, but she really *is* a babe in the woods, isn't she? I am afraid that Miss Patricia is at something of a crossroads: She will either have her proverbial head handed to her on a platter and get out of the sport real fast, or she will rise to the occasion and blossom into a serious force. I know which of the two *I* would choose, and I bet I know which one you'd choose, too, reader!"

BACK ISSUES OF PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

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[NOTE: Cover stories noted in boldface.]

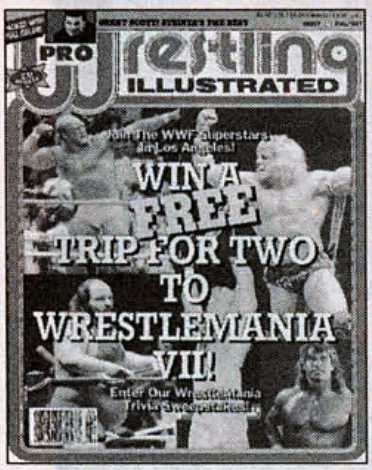
February 1988/CENTERFOLD: Ronnie Garvin. **Savage & Elizabeth,** Garvin, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1989/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steiner. **Randy Savage,** Ted Turner, Richter, Paul E., Powers of Pain.

December 1990/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **New WWF Blood,** Four Horsemen, Kerry, Doom, Gilbert, Slaughter.

January 1991/CENTERFOLD: Kerry Von Erich. **WWF vs. NWA,** Hogan, Hansen, Sting, Sherri & Warrior.

February 1991/CENTERFOLD: 1991 calendar. **WrestleMania,** Vicious, DiBiase-Rhodes, Steiner, Power & Glory.



May 1991/CENTERFOLD: Arn Anderson. **Hulk Hogan,** Rude, Flair-Sting, Thesz.

June 1991/CENTERFOLD: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan,** Cactus, Flair, Nasty Boys, Steiner.

January 1993/CENTERFOLD: Jeff Jarrett. **Flair/Summerslam,** Simmons by Bowden, Von Erich interview.

February 1993/CENTERFOLD: Curt Hennig. **Ramon,** Snuka-Muraco, Rude, Rhodes, Roberts interview.

April 1993/CENTERFOLD: Barry Windham. **Steiners,** Backlund, Sting-Muta, Hawk-Sasaki.

November 1993/CENTERFOLD: The Steiners. **WCW Midyear Report,** Doink, Funk-Gilbert, Race, Yokozuna.

January 1994/CENTERFOLD: Jerry Lawler. **Doink,** Nasty Boys, Steiners, Cornette, Vicious.

May 1994/CENTERFOLD: Tatanka. **Yokozuna-Luger,** Flair-Vader, Heenan, WrestleMania retrospective.

July 1994/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steamboat. **Razor Ramon,** Flair-Regal, Cactus, Lawler, Yokozuna workout.

August 1994/CENTERFOLD: Doink & Dink. **Bret Hart/WrestleMania X,** Steiners, Albano, steroid trial.

November 1994/CENTERFOLD: Randy Savage. **Hogan In WCW,** Cactus, Yokozuna, Lawler, Michaels, Jake.

Winter 1994/CENTERFOLD: Terry Funk. **Hulkamania Wild Again,** McMahon, Vicious, AAA, Flair.

January 1995/CENTERFOLD: Razor Ramon. **Tatanka,** Hogan, Alundra, ECW vs. NWA, Brian Lee.

February 1995/CENTERFOLD: Johnny B. Badd. **WCW Civil War,** Pillman & Austin, Abdullah, Bret Hart.

April 1995/CENTERFOLD: Sabu. **WWF Title Turmoil,** Hogan, Cornette, Diesel, Alundra, Rhodes.

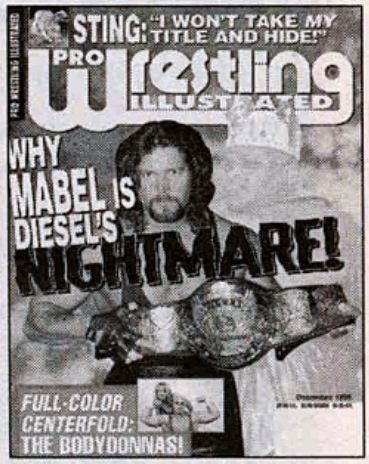
May 1995/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **Diesel,** Savage, Sabu, Hogan-Beefcake, Vader, Owen Hart.

July 1995/CENTERFOLD: Bam Bam Bigelow. **Hulk Hogan,** Sullivan, USWA blood, Yokozuna, revitalize the WWF.

August 1995/CENTERFOLD: Big Van Vader. **Women In Wrestling,** Rottens, Sting-Hogan, Road Warriors.

October 1995/CENTERFOLD: Harlem Heat. **Razor Ramon,** ideal WWF champ, Flair, Savage, Orndorff.

November 1995/CENTERFOLD: Hulk Hogan. **Summerslam,** Vader, Michaels, Backlund, North Korea, ECW rules.


STING: "I WON'T TAKE MY TITLE AND HIDE!"
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WHY MABEL IS DIESEL'S NIGHTMARE!
FULL-COLOR CENTERFOLD: THE BODYDONNAS!

December 1995/CENTERFOLD: Bodydonnas. **Diesel-Mabel,** Sting, Yokozuna, Savio, Regal-Eaton, Lawler-LeDuc.

January 1996/CENTERFOLD: Arn Anderson. **WWF vs. WCW,** Diesel & Shawn, Luger, Summerslam.

February 1996/CENTERFOLD: Shawn Michaels. **Randy Savage,** Hogan, Gangstas-Public Enemy, Austin.

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YOU KNOW HER AS:

BAMBI

ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 8 (she is about as wholesome as they come!)
HER BEST FEATURE IS: her all-American face
HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: none, really; her impact comes as a competitor
HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: country music, horses
HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: rodeo
HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: music
THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *Hank Williams* by Colin Escott
WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: a cowboy boot in the teeth
MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: Justin boots
IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: Elly May Clampett
HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "You know, I really don't think I'm the most important woman in the sport. That's not something to which I aspire. If it happens, wonderful. But I'm out there *wrestling*, not flashing my cleavage, not lifting my skirt. I'm fighting for glory, for prestige, and for the image of women in the sport the world over. That's more than enough of a battle for me. The only best I want to be is the best that *I* can possibly be."
AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "Now isn't this a shame? Bambi is a woman who has it all: girl-next-door looks, solid athletic skills, real determination and character … what else could you want? Problem is, my dear, is that she is just a little too bland for the taste of the average fan these days. Which is a shame, because she has so much to offer. Just another example of how the average fan misses out, that's all. Pity."

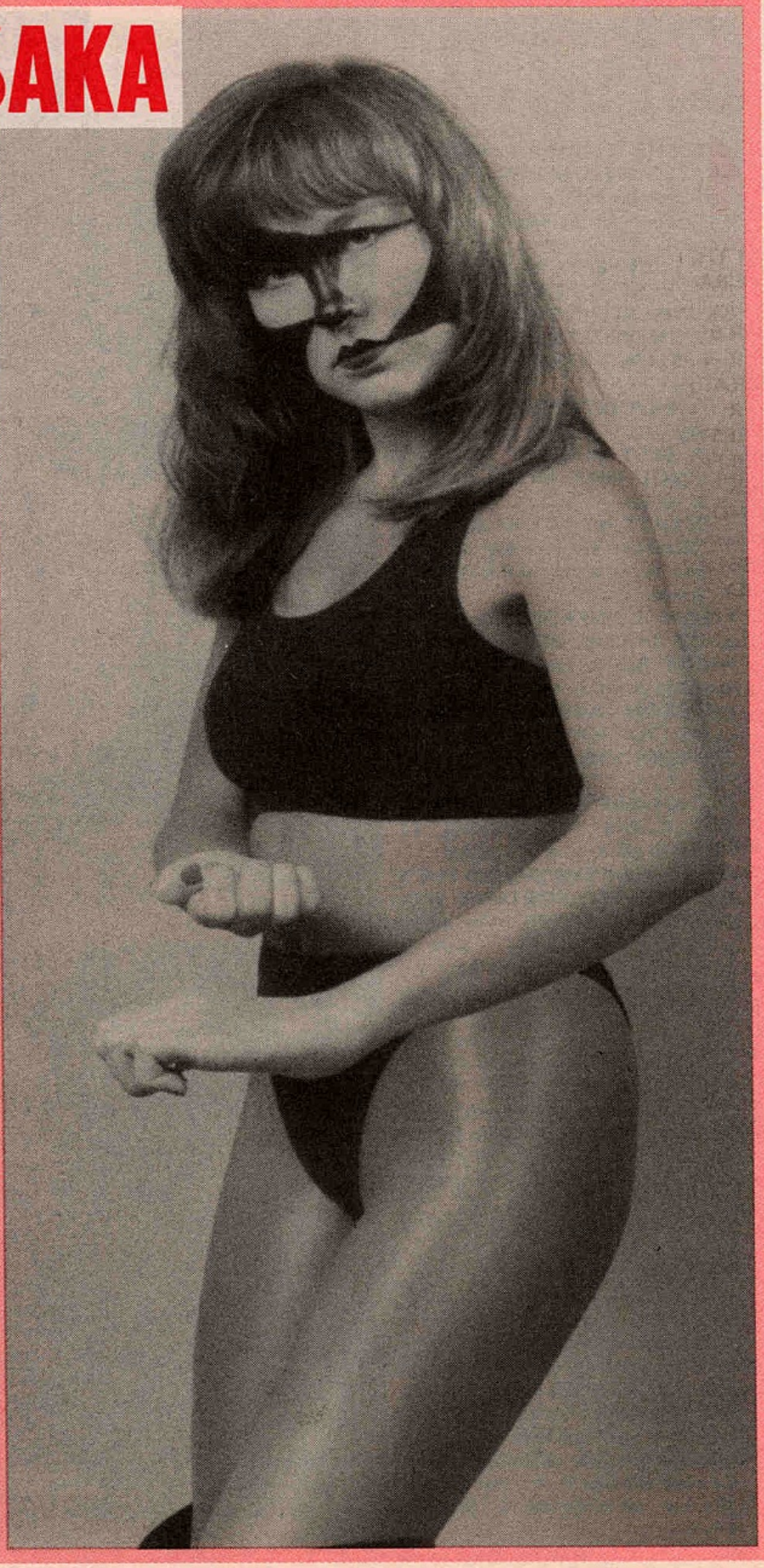
YOU KNOW HER AS:

SHERRI MARTEL

ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 5 (although she'd probably pick up two more points if she didn't put the makeup on with a trowel!)
HER BEST FEATURE IS: her legs
HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: flirting
HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: Col. Parker, her pet dogs
HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: field hockey
HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: social studies
THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Almanac* by the editors of Pro Wrestling Illustrated
WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: to hand him her hotel room key (and then not show up)
MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: Leggs panty hose
IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: Kramer on *Seinfeld*
HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "Why? Why?! You want to know why? I want to know why you are so stupid! Don't you follow professional wrestling? Aren't you intelligent enough to get out of your own way? Aren't you aware of my track record in the past—and the present? My association with Harlem Heat! With more world titles than I can count! With Col. Robert Parker! And you want to know why. I'll give you why … why, you should be ashamed of yourself!"
AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "If clothing were an Olympic sport, child, then Sherri would certainly score a 9.8 for being able to slink herself into those black leather pants. *Ooooh,* she's looking about as good as can be expected, don't you think? Me, I believe she just never really felt comfortable in an out-of-the-ring role, and preferred to compete. But give her credit for getting out while she was on top. At ringside, she's just as dangerous as she was between the ropes."

YOU KNOW HER AS:

MALIA HOSAKA



ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 8 (that mixture of Asian and American features is wonderful!)

HER BEST FEATURE IS: her face

HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: none; but her repertoire of maneuvers during a match sure can distract fans and opponents alike!

HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: fine art, martial arts, gourmet cooking

HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: full-contact karate

HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: mathematics

THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *Exclusive* by Sandra Brown

WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: a double-reverse spinning savate kick into a moonsault ... followed by a spit in his eye

MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: Giorgio Armani

IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: Josie Packard on *Twin Peaks*

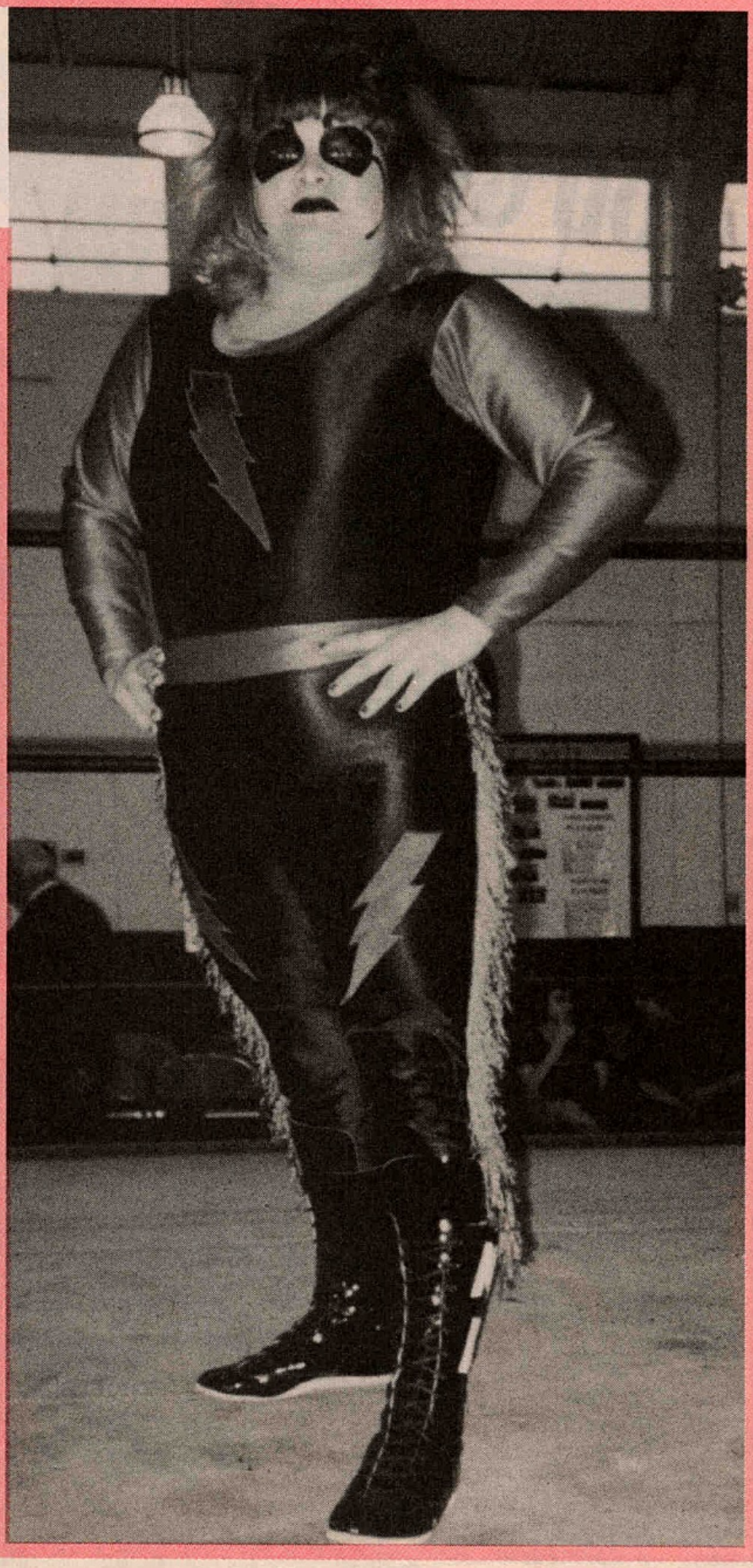
HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "I am sorry, but I really do not feel that is an appropriate question. I honestly do not feel that I am the most important woman in the sport. Actually, it is a question I do not even think about. I don't feel it's necessary to prove who is the most important. Rather, I strive to be the best in the ring. Interviews are fine, and image is fine. But I will let the fans, and the wrestling history book, judge me by the skills I display and the titles I win."

AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "Like Chris Benoit or Brian Pillman before he slipped a gear, Malia Hosaka is almost too good to be true. This is a girl who really does let one spectacular maneuver speak a thousand words. And her ring repertoire speaks volumes. She is an excellent athlete, but her lack of aggression on the microphone has cost her, at least in the American press. Know something, though? I don't think she really cares. Good for her."

YOU KNOW HER AS:

MADD MAXXINE

ON THE 10-POINT BEAUTY SCALE, WE RANK HER: 2 (and that's being generous, frankly!)
HER BEST FEATURE IS: imperceptible
HER BEST DISTRACTION MANEUVER AT RINGSIDE IS: beating someone up
HER INTERESTS AWAY FROM WRESTLING ARE: junk food, spandex
HER FAVORITE SPORT IS: arm-wrestling
HER BEST SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS MOST LIKELY: intimidating freshmen
THE LAST BOOK SHE READ IS PROBABLY: *Tarzan* by Edgar Rice Burroughs
WHEN CONFRONTED BY A RUDE SAILOR, HER RESPONSE MIGHT BE: "I don't think you can handle this, buster!"
MADISON AVENUE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE HER BE A SPOKESMODEL FOR: the lastest release by Metallica
IF SHE WERE TO PLAY A CHARACTER ON TELEVISION, IT WOULD BE: Roseanne
HERE'S WHY SHE THINKS SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN THE SPORT: "Of course I'm the most important woman in the sport! I'm Madd Maxine! I'm one of the few women ever to be ranked in the '*PWI* 500'! And that means I am the most important woman there is! Because I can hold my own against any man, and I mean *any* man in the sport! The only reason men won't get into the ring with me is because they are terrified of my wrestling skills ... or maybe they're simply intimidated by my beauty, *hmmmmm?* You think?"
AND HERE'S MERRILL ROE'S ANALYSIS: "Heavens, when Halloween was invented, they certainly had Madd Maxxine in mind, didn't they? What a harpy! She is like something out of Greek mythology! Terrible! Simply terrible! I think she wrestles against men because she doesn't think she has anything to lose if she gets her face rearranged!"



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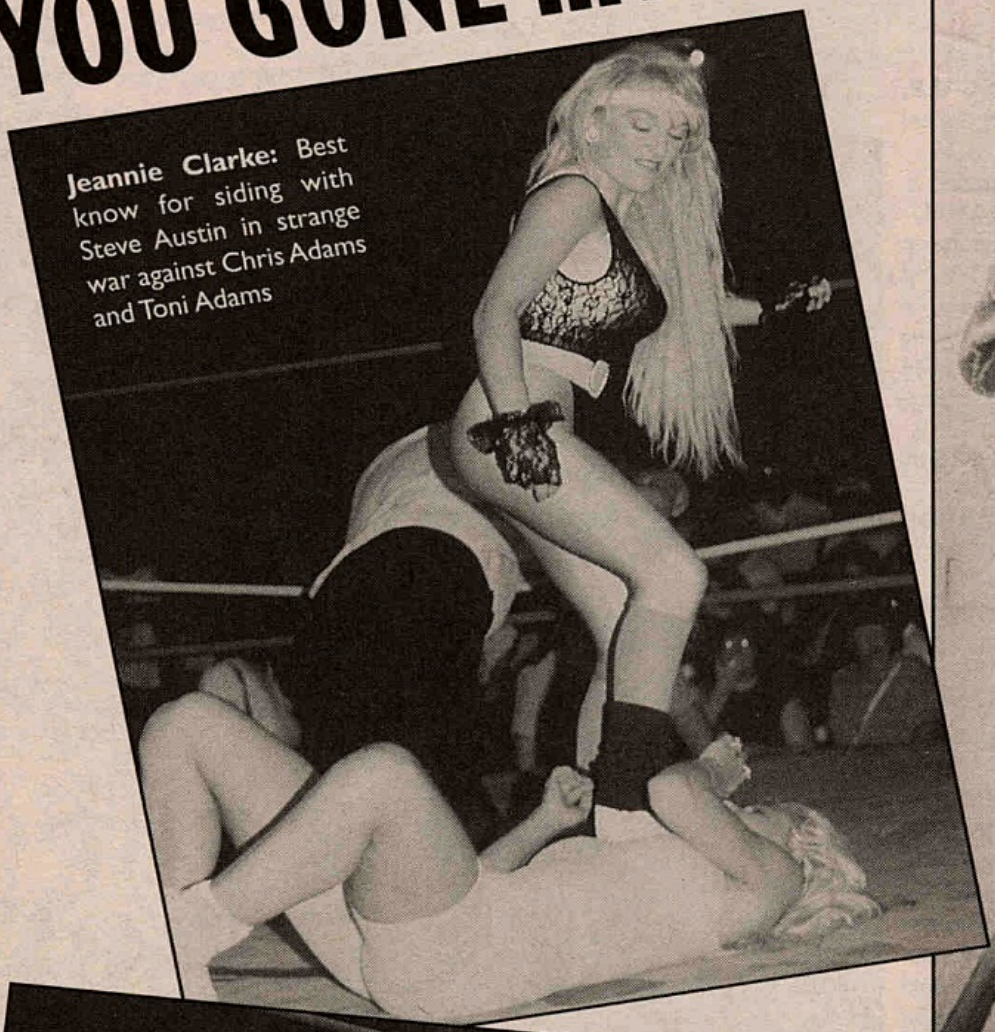


Jeannie Clarke: Best know for siding with Steve Austin in strange war against Chris Adams and Toni Adams

Miss Atlanta Lively: Best known for her resemblance to Ronnie Garvin

Sunshine: Best known for battles with Missy Hyatt and Precious

Toni Adams: Best known for backstabbing ex-hubby Chris Adams

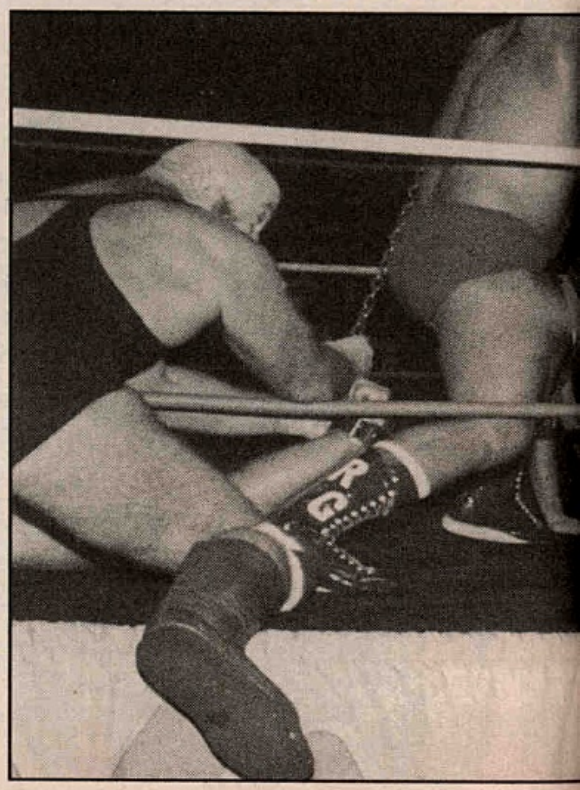
Baby Doll: Best known as Dusty Rhodes' "personal"

Dirty White Girl: Best known for coaxing Sunny (then Tammy Fytch) into the ring

Bertha Faye: Best known for smooching with Harvey Whippleman in ring

Mimi: Best known for bringing sex appeal to the squared circle

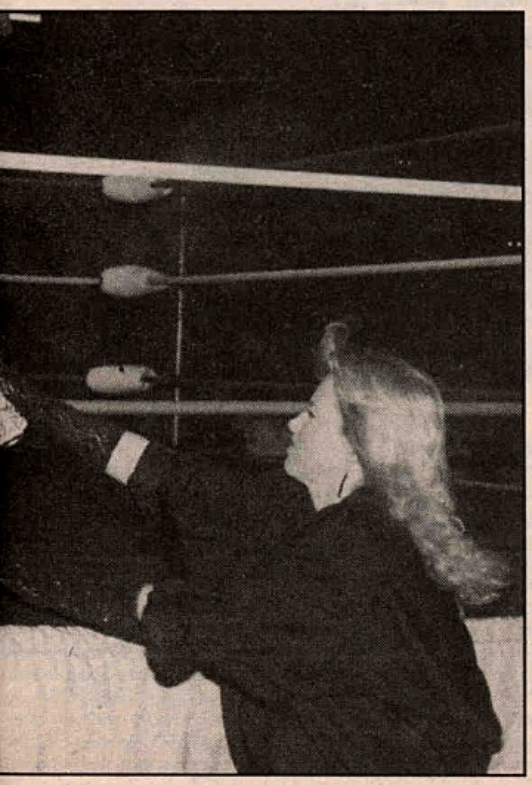
Precious I: Best known for all-to-brief association with Gorgeous Jim Garvin



Fifi: Best known as maid-servant to Ric Flair

Dark Journey: Best known for catfights with Missy Hyatt

Precious II: Best known for spraying Jim Garvin's opponents with spray mist



Nurse Vanessa: Best known for nursing Dr. Johnny Wildside after matches

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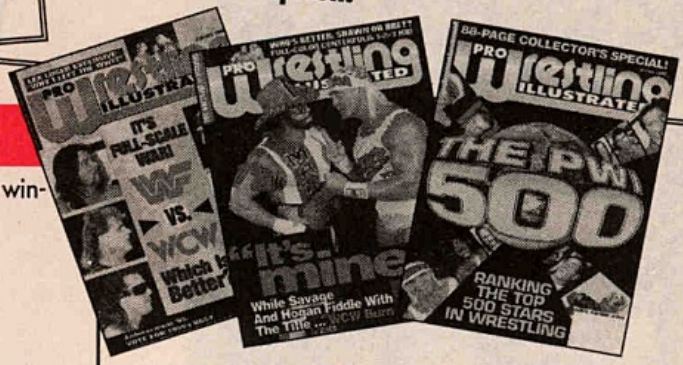
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1) London, England
2) Toronto, Ontario
3) Pyongyang, North Korea
4) Tokyo, Japan

True or False: Hulk Hogan is the only wrestler to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated
1) True
2) False

Which of the following cities did NOT host a portion of WrestleMania II?
1) Chicago, Illinois
2) Atlantic City, New Jersey
3) Uniondale, New York
4) Los Angeles, California

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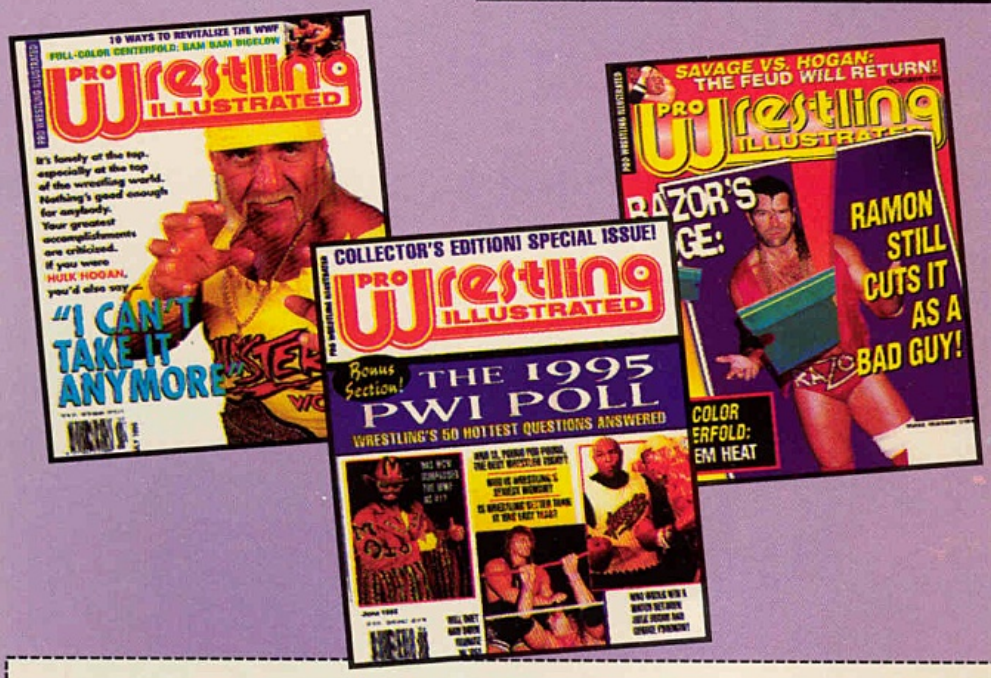
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